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Can be prepared at a moment's notice with the addition of Water only.
HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS, STIMULATING, and
A GOOD TONIC.
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SERVED IN CUPS AT THE
ANGLO-DANISH,
IRISH, AND
ITALIAN EXHIBITIONS.
And at all Clubs, Hotel Bars, Confectioners, and
Coffees Houses.
BOUILLON FLEET.
GUARANTEED to be made from Pure Beef only.
In Bottles at 1s. 2d. and 2s. 2d. each, of all
Chemists, Grocers, and Stores.
Wholesale: FLEET AND CO., Camberwell, or
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The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

LONDON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1888.

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THE "PEOPLE" OFFICE.
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

CANADA.
(EXCHANGE COMPANY'S TELEGRAM.)

OTTAWA, August 11.—The Dominion Government have settled the question of the Canadian Sault Canal, by inviting tenders for its construction. When the canal is finished the only obstacle to a clear navigation of British waters from the interior of the continent to the ocean will be the Lake Saint Clair flats. Heavy rains have extinguished nearly all the bush fires, and the Canadian crops are reported to be in splendid condition.

MILITARY RIOT AT SANDGATE.

A conflict occurred at Sandgate on Friday night between parties of the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment and the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, from Shorncliffe camp. On Thursday night the sergeant commanding the picket of the Leinster Regiment was struck by one or two men of the Lancers, owing to the former making prisoners of the latter. In the early part of Friday night several men of the two regiments came in conflict, during which one man was severely injured, and was taken to the military hospital. This having reached the Lancers at the camp they immediately broke out of barracks, and proceeded to Sandgate. Fortunately special men of both regiments had been on duty, and had succeeded in getting the greater part of the men into camp. Sir Baker Russell, commanding the garrison at Shorncliffe, summoned the Lincolnshire regiment, which he despatched in two parties by different routes to Sandgate. At this time a riot was proceeding near the Royal Kent Hotel, the rioters using pitchforks, shovels, and cudgels. The Lincoln men met there, and orders were given to fix bayonets, whereupon most of the men gave themselves up quietly. The remainder, consisting chiefly of the Leinster men, rushed through the hotel yard, and escaped to the sea beach. Sir Baker Russell ordered his escort of Lancers to secure their own prisoners, and about thirty-five were arrested and sent back to camp. A picket of fifty men of the Lancers and two officers was then appointed to patrol the streets the remainder of the night.

A TRICYCLIST KILLED IN BRIXTON.

Between six and seven o'clock on Wednesday a tricycle rider, whose name could not then be ascertained, was knocked down and run over in London-road, Brixton, by a van and pair of horses belonging a firm of mineral water manufacturers at Camberwell. Dr. Best, of No. 424, Clapham-road, was at once fetched, and upon his arrival pronounced life extinct, the wheels of the van having passed over the tricyclist. The machine was completely smashed up. Police-constable North, 101 W., conveyed the body on an ambulance to the Lambeth Mortuary, where it lies awaiting an inquest. The witnesses of the accident state that no blame is attached to the driver of the van.

ALLEGED EXTRAORDINARY ASSAULT.

It is reported that a man named Christopher Powell, of 12, Halidon-square, Hackney, who was some time ago discharged from a clerkship at the signal works of Messrs. Saiby and Farmer, at Kilburn, made a desperate attack on Friday evening upon a draughtsman named Peter Black, who is still in the firm's employ. Powell is alleged to have been jealous of Black, and it is said that on Friday night he gained access to the latter's house in Kilburn, and made a savage onslaught upon him with a table-knife. In attempting to defend himself Black received a dangerous stab through the hand. Powell was arrested.

SUICIDE AT RICHMOND.

A German merchant, named Adler, of the firm of Grans and Adler, whose chief office for Great Britain is at Old Corn Exchange, Manchester, arrived at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, on Tuesday afternoon, and engaged rooms for a few days. He lunched, dined, and supped at the hotel, and retired to rest at half past ten. On the following morning his bed-room door was found locked, but the circumstance created no alarm, the porter believing that the visitor had gone out and taken the key with him. No further inquiries appear to have been made until Friday afternoon, when Mr. Mills, manager of the hotel, directed an employé to mount the verandah and look through the window. This man observed Mr. Adler sitting in an armchair, apparently dead. Information was given to Police-inspector Aldridge, who effected an entrance through the window, and discovered Mr. Adler dead, with a bullet wound in each temple. Two five-chambered revolvers were found at his feet, each with one chamber discharged. A pool of blood was at the back of the chair. A medical man was summoned, and declared that Mr. Adler had been dead quite forty-eight hours. On Friday evening the body was removed to the parish mortuary to await the inquest.

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SATURDAY'S PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the wool-sack at a quarter past 12.

The Parnell Commission Bill.

The House went into Committee on this bill.—Lord HERSCHELL said the charges against Mr. O'Donnell had been investigated in the action against the *Times*, and he asked whether it would not be desirable to exclude these charges from the scope of the inquiry.—The Hon. CHANCELLOR was under the impression that the finding in the action of O'Donnell v. Walter was that the charges made by the *Times* did not refer to Mr. O'Donnell.—The Bill passed through its committee stage without amendment.—The House resumed, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Miscellaneous.

The Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments to the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Bill were considered and agreed to.—The Commons' amendments to the County Courts Consolidating and Amending Bill were then considered and agreed to.

The Local Government Bill.

The Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments to the Local Government Bill were then formally considered and agreed to.—The Imperial Defence, the National Defence, and the Municipal Funds and other bills passed through their remaining stages.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at a quarter past twelve.

Zululand.

Sir J. Gosst, in answer to Mr. Broadhurst, stated that no official information had reached him respecting the state of affairs in Zululand of a later date than that which he had already communicated to the House.

Post Office Savings Bank.

Mr. CANEW asked the Postmaster-General whether application had recently been made to the Treasury to sanction the increase of the staff of principal clerks in the Savings Bank Department; whether the Treasury has sanctioned such increase; and, whether he would state the cause of the delay in making the appointments.—Mr. RAIKES: No, sir.

Civil Service Establishment.

Mr. KELLY asked whether there was any intention of acting upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service Establishments as soon as the Government had received the approval of her Majesty, and before the autumn sitting.—Mr. W. H. SMITH thought his hon. friend would see that it was quite impossible for the Government to enter into any engagement in regard to the report of a commission not yet seen or agreed upon by the commissioners themselves. The Government must reserve their judgment till they saw the report; and then if it appeared to be to the public advantage they would consider what action to take.

The Motion for Adjournment.

Mr. W. H. SMITH having moved that the House at its rising on Monday next should adjourn until Tuesday, 6th November, the sentences on certain members, the arrears before the Land Commission, the inquest on Dr. Ridley, and other kindred matters were expatiated upon at considerable length by Parnellite members.

THE MURDER OF MR. PRELLER.

Maxwell Executed—Confession.

A Keuter's telegram from St. Louis states that Brooks, alias Maxwell, was executed there on Friday for the murder of Mr. Preller. The convict was on Thursday night informed that the authorities had determined to refuse a further reprieve. He displayed very considerable agitation, as up to the last he had been confident that the efforts in his behalf would be successful. Late in the night Brooks sent for a friend. He was very nervous, and in an agitated and excited voice made a full confession of his guilt. To a stenographer, at midnight, he delivered an address, which, it is said, he asked might be forwarded to the English people. He declared that the boasted fairness of the American courts was a sham. The prosecution in his case, he asserted, had resorted to every means to secure a conviction. "Aye," he exclaimed, "they even resorted to crime, for they made a witness commit forgery in order to get him confined in the same cell as I occupied. This was done," he went on vehemently, "for the purpose of worming statements out of me. Oh! the injustice of this proceeding. This same man now admits that on the witness-stand he told lies, because he thought that would be the best for the prosecution. He also admitted receiving money for his services. If I had time," he continued sadly, "I could give you many other instances. My lawyers offered to prove to the Governor of Missouri that a juror said point blank, long before he went into the court, he was going to convict me—that he went there solely with that intention. And yet the governor said that this was unimportant. He even ignored the request of the English Government for a reprieve on the ground that it was not intended thereby to interfere with the due course of the law and the discretion of the State authorities. It is altogether a farce. I have not been treated with that justice I deserved, and I trust the English people will consider my case as it should be considered."

Scene on the Scaffold.

Another telegram says:—The mother and sister of the murderer Maxwell, alias Brooks, parted from him overnight in the gaol at St. Louis, tenderly; but his farewell was indifferent. He passed the night in expectation of a telegram announcing his reprieve. The sheriff even postponed the execution for two hours, although there was really no reason to expect mercy. Maxwell walked to the gallows determinedly, but his evident emotion excited the pity even of those who knew him to be guilty. He had a companion to the gallows, who had murdered his sweetheart, and who died easily. Maxwell struggled for seventeen minutes, and blood poured over his breast from laceration by the nose. Both the men suffered severely from dysentery, and were so exhausted on arrival that they had to be carried from the boat. They performed the journey of about 1,500 miles in their open boat in twelve days. Attention was, of course, at once turned to the unfortunate castaways left upon the island. Among them were two ladies and four children—two girls and two boys, their ages varying from 3 to 9 years. Several of the passengers were ill when the mate and his party left the island, and in their destitute state they felt the exposure greatly. Great fear was entertained in Samos lest some or all of them would be found to have perished by the time help arrived. Happily it was not so. Natives were lost. The people found on the island had, with the exception of attacks of dysentery, enjoyed fairly good health.

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THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

Liverpool "Captured."

The reports of the operations in the Mersey on Thursday were very conflicting, but the real facts of the fight are now stated to be these: The *Belleisle* was caught napping, but nevertheless she got the better of the two attacking gunboats, *Hearts* (1,300 tons and 1,300 horse-power) and *Curlew* (785 tons and 1,500 horse-power), which were obliged to beat a hasty retreat. On their leaving the river, those in command of the batteries at New Brighton and Seaforth, having by this time become acquainted with the fact that the *Hearts* and *Curlew* were enemies, brisk fire was opened upon them, and it is a matter of speculation whether if these were real warfare the two vessels would not have been sunk. But in naval manoeuvres matters are arranged differently and the two batteries were supposed to be silenced. Having accomplished this little piece of work, the *Hearts* and *Curlew*, which were apparently sent into the river to ascertain the strength of the defences and afterwards report the result of their investigations to the commander of the attacking fleet, the whole force of the enemy came into the river. Their entrance was in no way interfered with, and the presumption, of course, is that the two batteries were ruined. The *Belleisle* surrendered on account of the impossibility of coping with such a far superior force, and Liverpool and the Mersey were then in the possession of the enemy. The war vessels lying in the Mersey on Friday morning, and which were supposed to have conquered the port, were the *Hercules*, *Hero*, *Devastation*, *Invaluable*, *Neptune*, *Curlew*, *Hearts*, and three torpedo boats, and the captured *Belleisle*. The Mayor of Liverpool states that he was not waited upon by any officers from the fleet on Thursday. He was not asked to give, nor did he give, any indemnity.—The fleet which captured Liverpool left the Mersey at half past twelve on Friday afternoon, their destination being unknown.

Despatches from the Admiralty.

A Sheerness correspondent, telegraphing on Friday night, says:—H.M.S. *Battlesnake*, sent to the defending squadron, took in stores in Sheerness Harbour on Friday afternoon and sailed in the evening for the North Foreland, with important despatches from the Admiralty for Vice-admiral Baird. It is expected that Vice-admiral Baird's fleet will coal in the Downs instead of coming to the Nore as originally intended. In the position in which Admiral Baird has now stationed his fleet it will be almost impossible for the enemy's cruisers to break into the Thames or Medway.

Defence Squadron off Ramsgate.

Nine vessels of Admiral Baird's defence squadron, took up positions off Ramsgate on Friday, and with the exception of a cruiser which went off round the Goodwin in search of the enemy, remained anchored until nightfall. The vessels composing the squadron were the Northumberland, the Active, the Rover, the Mersey, and Arthurs cruisers, the Collingwood and the Hotspur, and the torpedo-cruiser *Rattlesnake*, and the torpedo boat 67. Supplies of coal were taken on board.

Expected Attack at Brighton.

Rumours having reached Brighton that it would be one of the towns bombarded by the enemy's fleet, precautions were taken by the Naval Volunteers, under Captain Walters. Men are on duty each night on board the recently acquired steamer, while others are posted on the shore at the principal stone groyne, and parties patrol the shore near the town. The war ships passed up the Channel early on Friday morning, but no attack was made.

Accident to H.M.S. Sandfly.

The torpedo gunboat *Sandfly*, after capturing a merchant vessel off Queenstown on Friday, was proceeding west at a rapid rate when suddenly the starboard high pressure link was carried away, and the engines were stopped. The gunboat was brought to an anchor immediately to effect repairs, which was carried out with the utmost dispatch by the engineers and artificers on board. During the time that the gunboat remained disabled, a sharp look-out was kept for the enemy, one of whose ships had previously been sighted well off the land. The *Sandfly* subsequently steamed back to Queenstown.

Another Liner Captured.

H.M.S. *Sandfly* left Queenstown early on Saturday morning, and, proceeding to sea, captured the Cunard steamer *Etruria*, from New York to Liverpool, with over 800 passengers. At the time of capture the *Etruria* was steaming full speed, but was a very fast steamer and exciting chase was witnessed.

A ROMANCE OF THE SEA.

The mail steamer *Alameda*, which has just arrived at Christchurch, New Zealand, brings news of an extraordinary romance of the sea. On April 19th last, the *Henry James*, of Glasgow (Captain Lattimore), an iron ship of 964 tons register, with a cargo of coal, and having several passengers on board, bound from Newcastle, New South Wales, to San Francisco, struck on a coral reef soon after passing the island of Palmyra, in the Pacific, about five degrees north of the equator. The vessel had to be abandoned, and the boats being got out, the crew and passengers took refuge on the island. They found there plenty of coconuts and some small birds, so that they were in no danger of immediate starvation. The mate and four seamen volunteered to go in one of the ship's boats to Samoa—a distance of 1,300 miles, measured in a direct line. The boat was provisioned with a small keg of water, 250 coconuts, a little bread, mutton, cheese, and whisky, and with these scanty provisions for the journey the intrepid men set forth upon their perilous voyage. They ultimately reached Samoa in safety, although more dead than alive. Owing to the milk in the coconuts turning sour in consequence of the heat, the men suffered severely from dysentery, and were so exhausted on arrival that they had to be carried from the boat. They performed the journey of about 1,500 miles in their open boat in twelve days. Attention was, of course, at once turned to the unfortunate castaways left upon the island. Among them were two ladies and four children—two girls and two boys, their ages varying from 3 to 9 years. Several of the passengers were ill when the mate and his party left the island, and in their destitute state they felt the exposure greatly. Great fear was entertained in Samos lest some or all of them would be found to have perished by the time help arrived. Happily it was not so. Natives were lost. The people found on the island had, with the exception of attacks of dysentery, enjoyed fairly good health.

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LIVERPOOL (WEST DERBY) ELECTION.</

CHRONICLES OF THE "CROOKED" CLUB.

BY JAMES GREENWOOD,
AUTHOR OF "TATTERDOWN TALES" AND "OUR SATURDAY NIGHTS."

VI.—A CURIOUS MIXTURE.

"Brother Crooked," the President remarked on taking his seat, "I have to announce to you that since our last meeting, the names of several new candidates for membership have been submitted to me. Personally, and I think I may speak for all present, I have no objection to the increase in crookedness this would seem to indicate; at the same time, I would advise that we should be even more stringent than hitherto in our judging of an applicant's claim, or we may become too numerous for our comfort and convenience."

"My object, however, in addressing you this evening before we proceed to the testing business is to mention that one candidate applies under very uncommon conditions. He is in the peculiar position of having adopted crookedness against his inclinations."

"You will probably say that that is not very uncommon, and that you know of more than one man who is well qualified to join us, and who started in life with no other wish or intention than to keep in what I may call the sheep-path of rectitude. He deems it impossible that he shall ever stray out of the straight track, until temptation has hold of him, and then he finds that he can accommodate himself to crooked circumstances as easily almost as the individual in whom the talent is naturally developed."

"But the case to which I wish to direct your attention is different. It is that of a person who, in a manner of speaking, has been unconsciously inoculated for crookedness, and has taken it to perfection. I will not go into particulars, because to do so would spoil your interest for the strange story he himself will presently relate to you. But I think we shall find a difficulty in dealing with his application. He is afflicted with a constant itching for crookedness, and it is with the greatest difficulty that he can refrain from it in whatever company he may be; which, perhaps, may make him a less agreeable companion than if he were able, as we all are, to put aside all considerations of business when we meet here for enjoyment and jovial companionship."

"From what I have been informed, the would-be member in question is not one of the lively sort. Straight society has long since turned its back on him, and that has made him melancholy and miserable, and desperate to attach himself to a club where he will find congenial company, and the members of which will not look on him with scorn but extend to him the hand of friendship. The only thing, that his crookedness were curable we never should have heard of him, and that, however satisfactory his behaviour may be in conforming to our rules and regulations, he may not be at heart what he pretends to be. Of that, however, it will be for you to pronounce an opinion when you have heard what he has to say for himself. He may now be introduced."

The usual preliminaries having been complied with, the candidate, his eyes bandaged with a handkerchief, was brought into the room and led to the president's table. He was still a young man, and had the bearing of one whose natural social position was above that of the labouring class. But he was gaunt and haggard looking, as if he had endured much trouble and tribulation. Indeed, his opening remarks denoted that such was the fact.

"Mr. President and friends,—I have come to ask you to admit me as a member of your club, not on my merits, but because I am an unfortunate beggar who is in need, if ever a man was, of comfort and sympathy. At the same time, crookedness being the prime qualification, I am crooked enough. I couldn't be otherwise if I tried, and I will state to you briefly the reason why. Seven years since there was no company so respectable but I could hold up my head with the best of them. I was in a good house of business in the capacity of traveller, and my prospects were unclouded. I don't tell you that I was what is called a good young man. I liked amusements and lively company and I was not a total failure."

"Well, I was travelling in France for the firm when I met with an accident. I had been out spending a jolly evening, and we were just breaking up when one of the fellows I was with showed us a sword-cane he had. He was flourishing about it in fun when I challenged him to fence with my walking-stick. Quite by accident, of course, he stabbed me with the weapon. The wound was not a deep one, but I bled so rapidly that by the time they had carried me to the hospital I was more dead than alive, and next morning I was informed that the only means of saving my life was to have the blood of some healthy adult of about my age conveyed from his system into mine."

"Had I been in England it would not have been difficult to have found some robust poor fellow who would not have objected to part with a quart or two of the vital fluid if he had been paid for it a sufficiently good price to provide him with beefsteak and stout until he regained his strength, with the additional inducement of a new suit of clothes and a pound in his pocket to start afresh. But in France, at all events in the part where my accident happened, no one could be found who for love or money would shed his blood for my benefit. The physician who attended on me was a clever man and a celebrated experimentalist. He had made up his mind to endeavour to revivify me in the way mentioned, and would not be balked."

"He hurriedly left my bedside as though a brilliant idea had suddenly occurred to him, and in something less than an hour returned accompanied by a young fellow meanly dressed, and of a not particularly prepossessing appearance, but who evidently was strong and healthy. He cheerfully expressed his willingness to assist me in my terrible emergency. I don't know how much of the vital fluid he could seemingly so well spare him with the additional inducement of a new suit of clothes and a pound in his pocket to start afresh. In the evening, and we were just breaking up when one of the fellows I was with showed us a sword-cane he had. He was flourishing about it in fun when I challenged him to fence with my walking-stick. Quite by accident, of course, he stabbed me with the weapon. The wound was not a deep one, but I bled so rapidly that by the time they had carried me to the hospital I was more dead than alive, and next morning I was informed that the only means of saving my life was to have the blood of some healthy adult of about my age conveyed from his system into mine."

"I grew rapidly well after, except for what I thought might be one of the natural results of mingling my own blood with that of a stranger, and he a foreigner, and that was a confused idea as to what really belonged to me, and what was the property of other people."

"As for example, they brought me a silver spoon with which to drink the strengthening broth they made me, and I got it into my head that it was my spoon, and that I had best take care of it to prevent its being mislaid. I hid it under my pillow, and as I need hardly say, I felt considerably ashamed of myself when the nurse round it there. I said I must have placed it there in a moment of forgetfulness, and the affair passed over as being of no moment. But next day the same nurse had occasion to remove her gold brooch from the little handkerchief she wore round her neck, and she laid it down on the table beside my bed."

"Immediately I felt an irresistible temptation to make it mine."

"I experienced the most extraordinary sensations. I grew by turns hot and cold, and the blood tingled strangely in my veins. I tried to argue with myself on the sin, to say nothing of the folly, of wishing to appropriate what did not belong to me, but it was as though I was no longer master of my own actions, and I stealthily took the brooch, and, to conceal it, attached it to the inner part of the sleeve of my jacket. I was not sober if I had seen it. I saw the nurse looking about for it, and I heard her

tell a young girl, who was her assistant, that it was very strange what had become of it, and that if it weren't presently discovered strict inquiry would have to be made. The poor girl burst into tears at the incision, and although I was tortured with a sense of the scoundrelly part I was playing it seemed that I was ruled by the battings of the two bloods in my veins, and the base part conquered and I could not confess that I had taken it."

"I was in a terrible state of mind, but that same evening came the climax."

"The physician came to pay me a last visit for the day, and as he stooped over me to feel my pulse my eyes rested on his gold chain, and I yearned for the watch that I knew was attached to it and resting in his pocket. I found it impossible to resist the impulse, and I need hardly say I had never in my life abstracted anything from a person's pocket or attempted it. But if I had served an apprenticeship to the light-fingered craft I could not have set about the job with more dexterity. The physician was still stooping over me and inquiring as to my symptoms—indeed at the moment I was putting out my tongue for him to examine, and looking him steadily in the face all the time—and I had his watch off and detached it from the swivel before he was aware of it. It was the dropping of the chain of its own weight that apprised him of his loss, and looking down he discovered his gold repeater in my hand."

"I was quite sick with fright. My recumbent position prevented my going down on my knees, and in my confusion of mind I drew them up instead, and in piteous terms begged his forgiveness, assuring him that what looked so much like a robbery was merely an act for which I—my proper self I meant—was altogether irresponsible. The good doctor looked grave and graver still when the nurse, coming up and ascertaining what had occurred, mentioned about her missing brooch and the silver spoon that I had secreted under my pillow. Again I implored the physician to forgive me, but to my amazement he turned to me with the words:

"My poor fellow, I am afraid it is for me to beg of you to forgive me for inflicting on you an injury I sincerely hope is not irreparable."

"Dismissing those who had gathered about my bed, I took a chair and requested me to tell him what were my sensations since the blood injection.

"He listened with grave attention, and then informed me that I was quite right when I said that I was irresponsible for my larcenous inclinations. He had intended to make no mention of the circumstance, having no idea that it would make any difference, but the fact was the blood that had given me new life was drawn from a man who was one of the most accomplished thieves in the city. Finding it impossible in any other way to get a subject who would consent to be operated on he had suddenly thought of his intimate friend the director of prisons, to whom he hurried, and related the particulars of his dilemma, and the letter at once gave him an order authorising the remission of the remainder of the sentence on any prisoner whose term was less than six months who would serve the purpose required, and the rascal he had brought back with him to the hospital was induced without any difficulty to consent to the offer, he having served but three weeks of the four months to which he had been condemned.

"Nothing could have been more successful than the operation, but the moral result was deplorable. Science and surgery, he admitted, knew of no remedy for it. The only hope was in nature, just as when one kind of rose is grafted on to another, the foster flower after a while fails to assert itself, and the parent stem puts forth only its original bloom. The only thing I could do was to exercise all the strength of mind of which I was capable, thus resisting the foreign influence, and by every possible means avoid temptation. As regards the situation I held at the time, the advice was nothing short of cruel mockery, for the trade of the firm for which I travelled was chiefly in gold lace, and I often carried four or five hundred pounds' worth of samples. If I kept my secret, and the foreign influence proved too much for me, I should be irrecoverably ruined, since my excuse in a court of justice would render me liable to a heavier sentence rather than be received in mitigation, as it would be regarded as a barefaced attempt to impose on the credulity of a jury.

"The physician, to whom, after all, I owed my life, was just, as well as rich and generous.

"My friend," said he, "I admit all that you say; and we must make the best of a very bad job. I will give you a certificate to show to your employers to the effect that it will be at least twelve months before you are again fit for business, and meanwhile, I will make you a present of five thousand francs, with which, were I in your place, I would retire for a time to some remote and primitive place where there is nothing worth your while to eat. By so doing you may succeed in a few weeks in disgusting and starving out the enemy, and you will again be fit for respectable society."

"I need not tell you that under the circumstances I was glad to accept his terms, and resolved to follow his advice as to going away. But I have no doubt that the rascal whose nature was as bad as mine was a rollicking blade as well as a thief. And with a year's leave granted by my employers and two hundred pounds in my pocket, I never got further than Paris. Here, in a couple of months, I ran through all the money, except just enough to carry me back to England.

"I tried hard to be honest. Without wishing to say anything offensive to the present company, I really did try.

"But it was not the least use.

"I am speaking now of what happened seven years since, gentlemen. I endeavoured to keep my secret, but it oozed out at my fingers' ends at every opportunity, and I was powerless to prevent it. I went to live with my old mother, who was a widow, and in anything but good circumstances, thinking that if there was the least shame in me it would operate under that sacred roof, but though I might have done without it, in less than a week I had made free with her quarter's pension, which was all the poor old soul had to live on. I stole the few little articles or plate the poor old lady treasured in memory of better times, and I wound up—could any corkscrew be crookeder?—by filching her silver-rimmed spectacles."

"It broke her heart when she found out who the thief was, and my grief at her death was such that for a time I gave way to crookedness without remorse, and my friends and relations shunned me. The first two or three times I was caught in the act and taken before a magistrate. Kleptomaniac was pleaded for me, but that excuse grew stale on repetition, and I went to prison. I have not mentioned that I never went back to the firm. Before the twelve months had expired I had done two months at Holloway Gaol, so to return to the gold lace business was out of the question."

"I have been more or less crooked ever since. I couldn't help it at first, but now, with everybody turned against me that once respected me, I wouldn't let it if I could. That, Mr. President and gentlemen, is my case, and I should be glad if you will give it your favourable consideration."

The man of mingled blood was then led from the room, and after nearly an hour, which was consumed by the members in animated debate, he was recalled, and informed that the voting had been equal for and against him, and that he had been elected by the President's casting vote.

Miss Alma Murray has accepted a new play by Alec Nelson. It is founded on a novel of William Black, whose full permission to use his work has been given by Mr. Nelson.

A Reuter's telegram from Rome on Saturday says that Cavaliere Bonacini, president of the Italian Exhibition in London, was received in audience by the king. His Majesty expressed his satisfaction at the success of the exhibition.

BOARD OF WORKS INQUIRY.

The Royal commission appointed to inquire into the irregularities of the Metropolitan Board of Works resumed its sittings on Tuesday for the twenty-third time, Lord Herschell presiding. The following evidence was taken:—Mr. J. T. Bailey, builder, said he was the owner of four plots of land in close proximity to the White Lion public-house at Putney, and he complained of the treatment he received from various officials of the Board of Works when his plans of proposed buildings were sent in. In the first instance plans were sent in which made the two buildings correspond. After the work had proceeded, an amended plan was sent in which witness considered spoiled his elevation. He objected strongly to this, and appealed to the board, but without effect. What he objected to was that instead of the building being set back to the same level as his, it was brought forward twelve inches, and the height was also altered.—Lord Herschell said it seemed somewhat hard, in a case where two persons sent in a joint plan which had been approved, and after one had begun to build, that behind the other man's back the adjacent owner should be allowed to vary his plan to the detriment of his neighbour.—Mr. M. Staniland, ex-M.P. for Boston, said he was formerly financial partner with Mr. Webster, contractor, but he did not take any active part in the business. He had seen the statement made by Mr. Beal that he, Mr. Doulton, and Mr. Jackson had received £10,000 each to become contractors' sureties, and subsequently they sat upon a committee of the House of Commons, upon the Essex reclamation scheme. This statement was all a fable, and he wrote a letter to that effect, which letter appeared in due course. He was not acquainted with Mr. Furness, the contractor alluded to, and had never become executionary for any contractor.—Mr. Furness, contractor, admitted that he received £10,000 a load from outsiders for material which was used in filling in the Embankment. He could not, however, say what it amounted to in all. His contract price with the board for filling in the Embankment was between £40,000 and £50,000. He also paid £7,000 to his sureties. Mr. Doulton made the necessary arrangements for the sureties, but he did not act as one of them.

The Board and The Pavilion.

Mr. Loibl, the originator of the old Pavilion and contractor for twenty years, said when it was the intention of the board to pull it down, he wished to carry it on temporarily. Negotiations with the board followed; and ultimately, witness offered £7,000 a year rent. His offer was refused.—Lord Herschell: Why?—Witness: My offer was refused because bribery was going on. If certain persons had not been bribed, I believe I should have been accepted as tenant. The board treated me most shamefully.—Mr. M. White: You say "certain persons were bribed." Can you give me their names?—Witness: Some of them have since died, or I could have proved it.—Mr. M. White: Then you cannot?—Witness: Oh, yes, I can. I know the names of the persons, but I am not going to tell you.—Mr. M. White: Very well.—Witness: It was a board of corruption and bribery.—In reply to further questions by Mr. M. White, witness said no complaint was ever made about the songs which were sung at the Pavilion save by that "virtuous angel, Mr. Goddard."—Mr. White: Was any objection made to the song, "Ten to one on the lodger?" (Laughter).—Witness: No never.—Mr. White: There was another song, "La-di-da-di-do." (Renewed laughter.) Was that ever objected to?—Witness: No. These songs were sung at various music halls, and no complaint was ever made about the songs that were sung at my hall, with the exception of that made by "that virtuous man, Mr. Goddard." (Renewed laughter.)—Before leaving the box witness said: I had £100,000 at my bankers, and notwithstanding this the board would not accept my offer of £7,000 a year rent, but they let the Pavilion to a man who was bankrupt. They treated me shamefully, and kicked me out in three weeks. It is shameful conduct.

Another Complaint.

Mr. Hugo Wolheim, a chemist, said he had been in communication for three years with the Board of Works in connection with the "Walter" process of dealing with the sewage, and he complained that there was some one inside the office of the Board of Works who had made it his business to render it impossible that his negotiations should have a favourable termination. Official samples of sewage after treatment by his process, which were to have been analysed by outside chemists had been tampered with, in addition to which documents had been kept back so that the whole of the board should not have a full knowledge of the value of the scheme.—Mr. Rider Cook, a member of the board had used every means in its power to ascertain how best they could treat London sewage. They had adopted nearly all the recommendations made by Lord Braundall's committee. Mr. Wolheim's scheme was so inferior to the board's that it was not submitted to the four special chemists.—At the close of his evidence Mr. Cook observed that a great many remarks had been made in the public press detrimental to many members of the board, who had for years past served the public honestly. As some of the older members of the board were desirous of becoming members of the new London County Council, he hoped the commissioners would see their way to make an interim report so as to remove the imputations which had been cast upon them.—Lord Herschell: I think you may take it that the commissioners will issue their first report within two months.—The commission again adjourned.

A TRIPLE TRAGEDY.

The New Caledonia papers just to hand contain accounts of an unusual series of crimes. On June 1st, the body of a new-born infant, which had evidently been strangled, was discovered on the seashore at Noumea, the capital of the French colony. Suspicion fell on the daughter of a washerwoman named Godde, and she and her mother were arrested on June 9th. About noon on the same day a liberated convict named Damain, who had been working for the mother, and is believed to have been the father of the child, was found hanging by the neck quite dead in the basement floor of the house of the washerwoman. In the evening a warden, entering the cell of Madame Godde, found her kneeling on the floor, apparently engaged in prayer. On touching her he discovered she was a corpse. She had tied a silk handkerchief round her neck with a slip knot, and, attaching one end of it to the bar of her bedstead, had dragged herself away from it with such a rapid and violent impulse as to occasion complete strangulation. Her daughter was found to have escaped so easily, while the young ladies boarded a car and proceeded homeward, refusing to give their names.

DISCOVERY OF HIDDEN TREASURE.

The inhabitants of the Ouled-Aroun district in Algeria have been in a state of great delight. One of them lately discovered a treasure amounting to upwards of half a million francs, all in gold pieces stamped with the effigy of the Emperor Napoleon III. The money had been concealed in the fissure of a rock and covered up with earth, and as soon as the young man conveyed the joyful tidings to his little village the people quietly paid a visit to the spot and filled their pockets with the coins. They were all poor folk, and, indeed, had been in a condition bordering on destitution, and great was the surprise of the local officials when they noticed a number of camels trooping in one day. Inquiries were made, and by degrees the truth leaked out. Twenty of the villagers have already been arrested, and an investigation is

being prosecuted.

ATTACK BY CHINESE PIRATES.

The latest mail from China brings news of an extraordinary affair which took place at Macao on the night of the 24th of June. The house of a wealthy Chinese on the Praia, or quay, was attacked by a band of Chinese desperadoes, who landed from native boats. The robbers broke into the premises, secured and gagged the servants, and proceeded to rifle the house. An alarm being raised a large number of Portuguese police, under the command of Colonel Ferreira, went to the rescue, and a pitched battle took place inside the house between the police and the robbers, who turned out to be pirates. Colonel Ferreira was so severely wounded by a cutlass that he had to be taken to the hospital; and it was not until a military force came up that the robbers turned to fly to their boats, maintaining a running fire all the time. One policeman was killed and three were severely wounded; while the robbers two were found dead in the house and two outside. The Praia, where the house is situated, is the central and most public part of Macao. The house belonged to Tong King Sing, one of the best known men in China, and personally known to many persons in England. The instigator of the attack was his son, 16 years of age, who arranged the robbery with a gang of pirates, promising them one-fourth of the booty. He is in custody, and has confessed his guilt.

STANLEY'S ADVANCE.

The Press Association says:—"The possibility of Stanley reaching Khartoum via the Bahrein-Gassele, excites considerable interest in diplomatic circles. It is known that Stanley kept his intended ultimate movements in Africa strictly secret, and if his object now is the relief of the white slaves in Khartoum, the British Government will give him every assistance. If his intention should be to hold Khartoum, and to send thence a force to Emin Pacha, it is not likely that the Government will lend him active support."

DISCOVERIES AT HORSEMONGER-LANE GAOL.

With the demolition—with the exception of the old turreted gateway and walls of Horsemonger-lane Gaol, and the removal and reinterment of the bodies of those who, after having suffered the last penalty of the law, were interred in "Calcraft's Corridor," which site is now being utilised for the erection of fresh cells for prisoners awaiting their trial at the Surrey Sessions, a number of small stone tablets about a foot square have been unearthed, each of which bears an inscription terribly significant of some awful crime and its expiation. No names in full are given, but on the stone is simply grav'd the following:—"F. F., executed December, 1842." "S. O., executed 5th January, 1842." These were the first two found, whereas the succeeding two each possess a history which is second to none in its surroundings. The first, "G. F. M. and M. M., executed November 13, 1840." This stone was placed over the remains of George Frederick and Maria Manning (his wife) for the murder of Mr. Patrick O'Connor, at 3, Minerva-place, Bermondsey.

DEVLIN THE BARBER.

By B. L. FARJEON,

AUTHOR OF "GREAT PORTER SQUARE," "THE NINE OF HEARTS," "THE TRAGEDY OF FEATHER-STONE," "MISS FAREBROTHER," ETC.

CHAPTER V.

I PAY A VISIT TO MRS. LEMON.

I must now speak of the letter which I received on the morning of the murder, as I stood at my street door. It was from a Mrs. Lemon, entreating me to call upon her at any hour most convenient to me on this Sunday, and it was couched in terms so imploring that it would have been cruel on my part to refuse, more especially as the writer had some slight claim upon me. Mrs. Lemon had been for many years a nurse and servant in my parents' house, and the children were fond of her. She was then a spinster, and her name was Fanny Peel. We used to make jokes upon it, and call her Fanny Peel, Orange Peel, Candied Peel, Lemon Peel—and we little dreamt, when we called her Lemon Peel, that we were unconsciously moved by the spirit of prophecy. For though she was thirty years of age she succeeded in captivating a widower a few years older than herself, Ephraim Lemon, a master barber and hairdresser, who used to haunt the area. We youngsters were in the habit of watching for him and playing him tricks I am afraid, but nothing daunted his ardour. He proposed for Fanny, and she accepted him. Some enterprising tradesmen, when their stock is stale or old-fashioned, put bills in their windows announcing that no reasonable offer will be refused. Fanny Peel, having been long on the shelf, may have thought of this when she accepted Ephraim Lemon's hand. After her marriage she came to see me once a year to pay her respects; but suddenly her visits became less frequent, until they ceased altogether. For a long time past I had heard nothing of my old nurse.

"It is a fine morning," I said to my wife, "and I shall walk to Fanny's house." In the course of an hour I presented myself at Mrs. Lemon's street door, and knocked. She herself opened it to me, and after an anxious scrutiny asked me eagerly to walk in. There was trouble in her face, tempered by an expression of relief when she fully recognised me. She preceded me into her little parlour, and I sat down, awaiting the communication she desired to make. Up to the point of my sitting down the only words exchanged between us were—

From her: "Oh, sir, it is you, and you have come!" From me: "Yes, Fanny; I hope I am not later than you expected?" From her: "Not at all, sir. You always was that punctual that I used to time myself by you."

It is a detail to state that I had not the remotest idea what she meant by this compliment, especially as I had not made an appointment for any particular hour. However, I did not ask her for an explanation. I addressed her as Fanny quite naturally, and when I followed her into the parlour an odd impression came upon me that I had gone right back into the past, and that I was once more a little boy in pinafores.

The house Mrs. Lemon inhabits is situated in the north of London, in a sadly resigned neighbourhood, which bears a shabby genteel reputation. If I may be allowed such a form of expression I may say that it is respectable in a semi-kind of way. I do not mean in respect of its morals, which are unquestionable, but in respect of its social position. It is situated in a square, and is one of a cluster of tenements so exactly alike in their frontage appearance that were it not for the numbers on the doors a man, that way inclined, might hope for forgiveness for walking in and taking tea with his neighbour's wife instead of his own. In the centre of the square is an enclosure, bounded by iron railings, which once may have been intended for the cultivation of flowers; at the present time it contains a few ancient shrubs which nobody ever waters, and which are, therefore, always shabby and dusty in dry weather. Even when it rains they do not attempt to put on an air of liveliness; it is as though they had settled down to the conviction that their day is over. To this enclosed rural mockery, each tenant in the square is supposed to have a key, but the only use the ground is put to is to shake carpets in, and every person in or out of the neighbourhood is made free of it, by reason of there being no lock to the gate. There are no signs of absolute poverty in the square. Vagrant children do not play at "shops" on the doorsteps and window-sills; organ men avoid it with a shudder; beggars walk slowly through, and do not lingers; peripatetic vendors of food never venture there; and the donkey of the period is unfamiliar with the region. Amusement is provided twice a week by a lousy old gentleman in a long tail coat and a frayed black stock reaching to his ears, whose instruments is a wheezy flute, and whose repertoire consists of "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Away with Melancholy," which he blows out in a fashion so unutterably mournful and dismal as to suggest to the ingenious mind that his nightly wanderings are part of a punishment inflicted upon him at some remote period for the commission of a dark, mysterious crime.

"It's very good of you to come, sir," said Mrs. Lemon, working her right hand slowly backwards and forwards on a faded black silk dress, which I judged had been put on in honour of my visit. "I hope you are well, sir, and your lady, and your precious family."

I replied that my wife and children were quite well, and that we should be glad to see her at any time. When she heard this she burst into tears.

"You always was the kindest-hearted gentleman!" she sobbed. "You never did object to being put upon, and you give away your toys that free that all the other children used to take advantage of you. But you didn't mind, sir, not you. Over and over again have your blessed father said when he was alive, 'That boy'll never git along in the world, he's so soft!'" Mrs. Lemon's tears at this reminiscence flowed more freely. "I can't believe, sir, no, I can't believe as time has flown so quick since those happy, happy days!"

The happy days referred to were, of course, the days of my childhood; and my father's prophecy, which I heard now for the first time, respecting my future, brought a contemplative smile to my lips.

"Ah, sir," said Mrs. Lemon, with a sigh, "if we only knew when we was well off, what a lot of troubles we shouldn't have!"

I nodded assent to this little bit of philosophy, and looked round the room, not dreaming that in the humble apartment I was to receive a clue to the mystery of the murder of pretty little Melladew.

CHAPTER VI.

I AM HAUNTED BY THREE EVIL-LOOKING OBJECTS IN MRS. LEMON'S ROOM.

It was plentifully furnished; stuffed chairs and couch, the latter with a guilty air about it which seemed to say, "I am not what I seem;" a mahogany table in the centre, upon which was an album which had seen very much better days; ornaments on the mantelshelf, bounded on each corner by a lustre with broken pendants; a faded green carpet on the floor; two pictures on the walls; and on a small table near the window a glass case with an evil-looking bird in it. The pictures were portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Lemon, in oil colour. They appeared to have been recently painted, and I made a remark to that effect.

"Yes, sir," said Mrs. Lemon, in a voice which struck me as being uneasy. "They was done only a few weeks ago." And then, as though the words were forced from her against her will, "Do you see a likeness, sir?"

When she asked this question she was gazing at the portrait of herself.

As a work of art the painting was a shocking exhibition; as a likeness, it was unmistakable.

"It's," said, "your very image. As the portrait

of your husband—if that's your husband hanging there?"

She interrupted me with a shudder. "Hanging there, sir?"

"I mean on the wall. It is a picture of Mr. Lemon, I presume."

"Yes, sir, it's him."

"Is it as faithful a portrait as your own?"

"It's as like him, sir, as two peas. Except—" but she suddenly paused.

"Except what, Fanny?"

"Nothing, sir, nothing," she said hurriedly.

If, thought I, it is as like him as two peas, there must be something extraordinarily strange and odd in Mr. Lemon. That he was not a good-looking man could be borne with, but that of his own free will, he should have submitted to be painted and exhibited with such a sly, sinister expression on his face, was decidedly not in his favour. With this thought in my mind I turned involuntarily to the evil-looking bird in the glass case, and, singularly enough, was struck by an absurd and fearful resemblance between the bird's beak and the man's face. Mrs. Lemon's eyes followed me.

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Fancy Peel, Orange Peel, Candied Peel, Lemon Peel—and we little dreamt, when we called her Lemon Peel, that we were unconsciously moved by the spirit of prophecy.

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"That's what I want you to find out for me, sir, if I can so far trespass. Don't refuse me, sir, don't! It's a deal to ask you to do, I know, but I shall be eternally grateful."

"I am ready to serve you, Fanny," I said gravely, "but at present I am completely in the dark. For instance, this is the first time I have seen those Mephistophelean-looking objects with which you have chosen to decorate your room."

"I didn't choose, sir. It was done, and I daredn't go agin it."

"I have nothing to say to that; I must wait for your explanation. What I was about to remark was, why that evil-beaked bird?"

"Which I wish," she interposed, "had been burnt before it was stuffed."

"Should bear so strange a resemblance," I continued, "to the portrait of your husband, and why both should bear so strange a resemblance to the stone monster on your mantelshelf, is as very much beyond me, that I cannot for the life of me arrive at a satisfactory solution of the mystery. Surely it cannot spring from a diseased imagination, for you have the same fancy as myself."

"It ain't fancy, sir; it's fact. And the sing'lar

part of it is that the party who brought them all three into the house is as much like them as they are to each other."

"We're getting on solid ground," I said. "The party who brought them into the house—who

gave you the stone monster, who painted your husband's portrait and yours, who stuffed the bird; for, doubtless, he was the taxidermist. An Admirable Crichton, indeed, in the way of accomplishments!" You see, Fanny, you are introducing me to new acquaintances. You have not mentioned this party before. A man, I presume."

"I suppose so, sir," she said, with an awestruck look.

"Why suppose?" I asked. "In such a case supposition is absurd. He is, or is not, a man."

"Let us call him so, sir. It'll make things easier."

"Very much easier, and they will be easier still if you will be more explicit. I seem to be getting more and more in the dark. In looking again upon your portrait, Fanny—"

"Yes, sir?"

"I can almost discern a likeness to—"

"For the merciful Lord's sake, sir," she cried, "don't say that! If I thought so, I should go mad. I'm scared enough already with what has occurred and the trouble I'm in—and Lemon talking in his sleep all the night through, and having the most horrible nightmares—and me trembling and shaking in my bed with what I'm forced to hear—it's unbearable, sir, it's unbearable!"

I was becoming very excited. Unless Mrs. Lemon had lost her senses, there was in this common house a frightful and awful mystery.

And Mrs. Lemon had sent for me to fathom it. What was I about to hear—what to discover?

I strove to speak in a calm voice.

"You say your husband took to his bed yesterday, and that you fear he will never rise from it. Then he is in bed at this moment?"

"Yes, sir."

"Where is his bedroom?"

"On the first floor back, sir."

"Can he hear us, talking?"

"The Lord forbid, sir!"

"And you want me to see him?"

"Before you go, sir, if you have no objections. I shan't know how to thank you."

"I will do what I can for you, Fanny. First for your own sake, and next because there appears to be something on in this house that ought to be brought to light."

"You may well say that, sir. Not only in this house, but out of this house. The good Lord above only knows what is going on! But Lemon's done nothing wrong, sir. He's as innocent as the babe unborn, and I won't have him thought badly of, and I won't have him hurt. He's been weak, yes, sir, but he ain't been guilty of a wicked, horrible crime. It ain't in his nature, sir. When I first began to hear things that he used to say in his sleep, and sometimes when he was awake and lost to everything, my hair used to stand on end. I could feel it stirring up, giving me the creeps all over my skin, and my heart'd beat that quick that it was a mercy it didn't jump out of my body. But after a time, frightened as I was, and getting no satisfaction out of Lemon, who only glared at me when I spoke to him, I thought the time might come—and I ain't sure it won't be this blessed day—when I should have to come forward as a witness to save him from the gallows. I am his wife, sir, and if he ain't fit to look after himself, it's for me to look after him, and, so, sir, I thought the best thing for me to do was to keep a dairy."

"A dairy?" I echoed, in wonder.

"Yes, sir—a dairy—to put down in writing every-thing that happened at the very time."

"Oh," I said, "you mean a diary."

"If that's what you call it, sir. I got an old lodger's book that wasn't all filled up. I keep it locked in my desk, sir. Perhaps you'd like to look at it."

"It may be as well, Fanny."

"If," she said, fumbling in her pocket for a key, and placing one by one upon the table the most extraordinary collection of oddments that female pocket was ever called upon to hold, "if, when we come into this house to retire and live genteel, after Lemon had sold his business, I'd have known what to come out of my notion to let the second floor front to a single man, I'd have had my feet off before I'd done it. But I did it for the best, to keep down the expenses. Hero it is, sir."

CHAPTER VII.

DEVLIN'S FIRST INTRODUCTION INTO THE

MYSTERY.

She had found the key she had been searching for, and now she opened a mahogany desk, from which she took a penny memorandum book. She handed it to me in silence, and I turned over the leaves. Most of the pages were filled up with weekly accounts of her lodgers, in which "ham and eggs, 8d.;" "a rasher, 3d.;" "chop, 8d.;" "two boiled eggs, 3d.;" "a bloter, 2d.;" "crevet 4d.;" and other such-like items appeared again and again. There was also, at the foot of pages, receipts for payment, "Paid, Fanny Lemon." And this, in the midst of the presumably tragic business upon which we were engaged, brought to my mind an anomaly which had often occurred to me; namely, that the ladies should present their accounts to their lodgers in penny memorandum books, should receive the money, should sign a receipt, and then take away the books containing their acknowledgement of payment. In view of the grave issues impending, it is a trivial matter to comment upon, but it was really a relief to me to dwell for a moment or two upon it. At the end of the memorandum book which I was looking through were five or six leaves which had not been utilised for lodgers'

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

The House of Lords does not keep bank holiday, of course; for the matter of that, neither does the House of Commons. Their lordships had an unusually long sitting, however, on Monday, not breaking up until a quarter to two on Tuesday morning. But they made good use of their time. They had the Local Government Bill in committee, and went through it clause by clause, not sparing and rushing through it, but really working at it, with the result that a good many amendments were made, and the task was finished when the House rose, if only they would take a lesson in another place!"

Though the bill was amended, it was not much altered, and the Commons cannot reasonably find fault with the alterations. The principal feature of the debate was a speech by Lord Salisbury, who does not like the scheme proposed in the bill for controlling the county police, though he defends it as the best thing possible at present. The Prime Minister is of opinion that it would be a good thing if the whole police force of the country were consolidated and placed under the direct control of the Home Office. Moreover, he thinks the time will come when it will be done. Perhaps it will; I am not sure that Lord Salisbury is wrong. But what will Mr. Bottomley Firth say, and the other agitators of the Municipal Reform Association, who object to give the Home Secretary the direction even of the metropolitan police?

So the Gladstonites mean to fight the elections to the first County Council of London on party lines. That is the resolution, we are told, of the Liberal and Radical Federation. They want to find out whether Gladstone has made any progress in London since 1886. Will be so, since thus it must be; only I trust that Conservatives will take the hint and not allow themselves to be beaten for want of preparation. If the Gladstonites are going to make adherence to Home Rule a test of fitness to govern London, Unionists of both sections must have their test also. They must refuse to vote for any councillors who are not supporters of the Government. If they are sound upon that point, it does not matter two pins whether they call themselves Conservatives or Liberals. But there must be no mistake, no chilly-shallying about it.

A word as to the School Board elections, which come off in the autumn. A desperate attempt will be made to pack the London board with men (or women) who will try to ruin the voluntary schools. This must be resisted by all means. From the ratepayer's point of view it is madness to allow these schools, which save his pocket so materially, to come to grief, not to mention the probability that if we get rid of them, we shall cease to have any religious instruction for the children of the poor. Few Englishmen would wish our public elementary schools to become like the French, where the Government have cut the Divine Name out of every book which the children are permitted to read.

When you don't want to fight, it is an old and well-worn device to abuse the conditions of the contest. That is what the Separatists of West Derby are doing. Lord Claud Hamilton has been obliged to resign the seat, and as it is not convenient to oppose the new Unionist candidate, the Hon. W. H. Cross, the Gladstone-Parnell party pretend to be very indignant that they have not had longer notice. It shows, they say, that "the Government dare not now risk a fair fight." Well, as Lord Claud had a majority of 1,400 two years ago, things must have changed a good deal if that is so. But if it is, and the Separatists know it, why don't they bring out their man? It would be something to pull down that majority by a hundred or two, and that could certainly be done if the constituency has really changed its opinion.

Lord George Hamilton was amusing at the Mansion House the other night about the naval manoeuvres. He informed the Lord Mayor and his guests that Aberdeen and Edinburgh had fallen into the enemy's hands, and that the hostile fleet was steaming towards London, which might share the fate of the northern cities, the Lord Mayor being called on to pay a ruinous indemnity. The company laughed, but the security of our coasts is not a laughing matter. Even if we were secure, that is not much, now that we no longer produce half the food we eat within the four seas. If we cannot keep the command of the ocean as well as defend our ports, it is only a question of months when we shall be starved into submission.

WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

Racing on Tuesday and Wednesday was carried on at Brighton under most vexatious conditions. The weather was fine enough until it was just on time for business, and then a dense fog sprang up. Under the circumstances only a very short view of the contests was possible, and the company, which was very large, derived only scant amusement from the sport. Tuesday was, perhaps, not so bad as Wednesday, but there was very little to repay the visitor on either afternoon.

Bookmakers had a rare time of it, for all manner of good things went down. Not only were first and second favourites doomed to defeat, but occasionally, and that not rarely, the winner was hardly backed at all. We started with the Bristol Plate, in which the talent declared for Hungarian, Cardinal Wolsey, and Pippin, and saw a 100 to 8 outsider, Ilstenstein, beat Pippin by half a length.

Mr. Nightingall's Maskery, the favourite, did get home in the Brookside Plate, but very few of the ordinary punters were on it. Next came the Marine Plate, for which half a dozen were really well backed. Not one of the half dozen got into the first three. Lord Ellesmere's Catastrophe was very easily indeed, and gave most of the fielders clean books, and both Deuce of Clubs and Cobbler, second and third, were at 100 to 8. Scarecrow was the outsider of eight runners for the Patcham Plate, and won it very easily indeed.

Fretwork was hardly backed at all for the Brighton Stakes, but nothing else had a chance with it. A few sportsmen in the know were on assassin for the All-Aged Plate, but only a few, and once more the public lost. The last race, the Corporation Stakes, saw a favourite successful, that was Charicole, with only one opponent and at 5 to 1 on.

On Wednesday a better start was made, for Lord Hartington's Chaplet colt, who started equal favourite with Gallinule, landed. Sir James Duke's Satyr, well backed at the finish, took the Juvenile Selling Stakes, and was sold for 620 guineas over the entered price. Just at the last Abelard was well befriended for the High Weight Plate, which he won, but the commission was launched very late.

Mellifont, the favourite, won the Pavilion Stakes, and then came the Brighton Cup, with three runners, Whitefriar, Assassin, and Ingonda, a two-year-old who, the outsider of the three, made all the running, and won by three lengths. This was a fearful disappointment to the poor punters. Tamberlik, who could not be fancied after the Goodwood form, landed the Selling Welter, to the chagrin of the noble army of punters, and Erfurt, who was neither first nor second favourite, took the Rottingdean Plate. The balance on the two days was greatly in the bookmakers' favour; in fact, they have not had so good a time before this year, nor for a long while in other years.

The welcome change in the weather has brought with it better scores in the cricket field. Both Gloucestershire and Sussex made over 300 in an inning at Clifton College Close, which, at this time of the year, is generally much in the favour of batmen. Gloucester, who went in first, ran up 328. Brain, 79, was top scorer, and W. W. F. Fullen, 70, next. Sussex were all out for 130, when they followed their innings made a far

better stand. W. Newham, the Ardingly schoolmaster put on 118, and Mr. Brunn, his colleague at the Hayward's Heath establishment, 75; Jesse Hide scored 83, and the ten wickets realised 344. Gloucestershire, who wanted 147 to win, started with the Grace, W. G., and E. M., and made 51 for the loss of one wicket only. The number with two runs to spare came for three wickets only. W. W. Fullen was 45, not out, and E. M. Grace, 34.

At Canterbury, the week commenced with Australians v. Kent. So far as the first innings a-side went there was very little between the two, as the Colonials only made 116 to the county's 107. At the second time of asking, N'Donnell's eleven put together 152, and then got rid of Kent for 80. Sam Jones was able to play for the Australians for the first time since he fell ill at Nottingham, while engaged against the county, and was warmly greeted on his re-appearance. In his side's first innings he was topscorer with 24 not out, M'Donnell made 23, and Trott and Edwards 18 each. C. J. Fox, 21, and F. Marchant, 41, were top scorers in Kent's first innings. The Colonials in their second turn at batting ran up 152—Trott 22, Bonnor 43, Edwards 33—the result of three hours at the wicket, and Lyons 22. Lyons went in last and batted in first rate style. Kent was asked to make 102 to win, and failed to get half that number. The lot went for 80, with W. Rashleigh (17) top scorer. Though the local side was defeated—by the bowling of Turner and Ferris—the executive had reason to congratulate themselves on the pecuniary result of the match, for the attendance on the two days about made a record.

Surely, at Kennington, gave Notts a bad beating. At first the Midlanders had the best of it, but they went all to pieces in the second innings when asked to make about 140 runs to win. Surrey scored 122 and 147; Abel 24 and 5. J. Shuter 24 and 42, K. J. Key 0 and 20, M. Read 6 and 28, Henderson 29 and 7, Notts, 136 and 53; H. B. Daft 36 and 6, Flowers 24 and 25. Lohman and Beaumont took nearly all the Notts wickets.

At Bramall-lane, Middlesex (98 and 138) beat Yorkshire (113 and 122). For Middlesex the best scorers were—T. C. O'Brien 27 and 19, E. M. Hadlow 16 and 34, G. F. Vernon 39 (run out) and 7 (not out). Among the Tykes, Ulyett had 40 and 23, and Lee 10 and 58.

Nuttall, on Monday last, won the Quarter Mile Amateur Swimming Championship at Ipswich. He has been out of form hitherto, but landed this event with great ease in the final heat in 4 sec. inside record. His time was 6 min. 16 2/5 sec., and he beat J. F. Standing, captain of the Zephyr Club, by 15 yards, with H. C. Schieltz, Ilex Club, third. Standing, in his preliminary heat, cleverly defeated Bowden, the holder of the Half Mile Championship. After this we may expect to see Nuttall again win Mr. Harry Ulph's Championship at Yarmouth.

The cycling tournament commenced at Lower Aston on Monday recent from upset. Fred Wood, of Leicester, best Ralph Temple by six inches in the three miles race, with J. Lee, Beeston, third. F. W. Allard, Coventry, won the one mile Safety professional championship, whatever that may amount to; and F. Moore, Aston, the five miles professional tricycle championship. Next day Temple won the ten miles bicycle race, with W. Wood, Shields, second; and Jock Lee the mile race.

Our English football team played New South Wales under Rugby rules on August 4th, and beat them by two goals and three tries to one try. They get on better at this than they did at the Victorian game.

The Englishmen proceeded from Sydney, where they played New South Wales, at Bathurst, and beat that city by two goals and five tries to two tries only. They were very warmly received, and are very popular in the colony.

OLD IZAK.

One of the very few anglers who have lately been fortunate enough to find the fish at all on the feed in the tide-way of the Thames, is the president of the Anglers' Association. On the afternoon of the 3rd inst. I found Mr. Geen, notwithstanding the swollen and discoloured state of the water, busily at work legering for barbel from a punt moored opposite the grounds of the Orleans Club at Twickenham; and on his kindly allowing me to inspect the interior of the well, I saw to my surprise that he had taken four barbel—the largest weighing 5 lb. 2 oz.—two very fine bream, a couple of eels, &c. I may state that I ate one of those eels for breakfast next morning, and came to the conclusion that, for delicious flavour, a Thames eel cannot be surpassed by any fish.

This take of fish, made under such exceptionally unfavourable circumstances as prevailed on that day—the water being as thick as pea soup and rushing along with the velocity of a millstream—may be thought by some anglers to have been due to luck, but "it has been too often luck to have always been luck" with Mr. Geen. I ascribe his success to the use of the finest tackle, and, secondly, to the splendid lot of bright, well-scorched lobworms procured from Nottingham with which he was fishing, after having well baited the swim.

I would gladly do anything in my power to aid the funds of the Victoria Park Hospital, E., also the Working Men's Society, having the same object in view, and therefore have pleasure in calling attention to the suggestion made to me by the president of the society, that angling should be permitted in the Victoria Park Lake, where the fish are said to be so numerous that they "are devouring each other"—at a charge of 1s. per day per rod, the money so collected to be devoted for the benefit of the hospital. I would advise that the matter be brought to the notice of the secretary of the Anglers' Association, Mr. E. Glurney, 10, Baches-street, Hoxton, N., when, if thought proper, a petition could be drawn up to the Board of Works; and, as Mr. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., takes such a kindly interest in the society, it could not be placed in better hands than his presentation.

I am much obliged to Mr. G. Archer for the following interesting letter on the subject of night fishing:

"I reply to your correspondent 'Jack Line,' I am afraid that he will find spinning for jack by moonlight unprofitable business. When I invented the luminous float (the glow worm) I had a notion that a luminous bait would prove very killing, but in no case was it successful. I had two pieces of sheet glass, cut to resemble a Thames dace, and applied the paint between them. I rigged this demon fish on to a light fly, or hook, in the most approved fashion. I had a line illustrated by the aid of a few inches of magnesium ribbon, it had a very strong line. The more the night the greater the contrast. The luminous float answers well for bream fishing, if used according to instructions, by charging it with the aid of magnesium just before using. It is self-adjusting."

A fishing competition in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society will take place on Sunday, the 16th September next, at Ponder's End, under the management of "The Sociable Brothers' Angling Society," at the Hope, Pollard-row, Bethnal Green. It is open to members of bona fide angling societies, enrolled on the Anglers' and Central Associations. The first prize will be a gold watch, and the second a silver watch, whilst many other prizes will be offered. I trust that there will be a large number of entries, and that the efforts made on behalf of such a deserving charity as the A. B. S., which has been the means of helping so many poor anglers in the hour of need, will meet with entire success.

I regret to note that, in consequence of the pressure of business in the House of Commons, there is but little chance of "the bill for declaring the rights of anglers to fish in navigable rivers," making any further progress this session. Luckily, perseverance and patience are two of the most eminent features in the character of anglers; therefore, bearing in mind that they are anglers who have the matter in hand, there is every reason to hope for the ultimate success of this necessary measure."

A very interesting case to club anglers was tried

in the Yarmouth County-Court the other day. The secretary of the Eastern Counties Angling Society sued Mr. Crowther, the landlord of the public-house at which the society met, to recover possession of two cases of stuffed fish, which, it was stated, Mr. Crowther had presented to the society; but when it was determined to remove to fresh premises, the defendant refused to allow the fish to be taken from his house. The minute book of the society having been referred to, it was found that the fish had been given, and not lent, as alleged by the defendant; therefore, judgment was given for the plaintiff.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

An interesting sight is frequently seen in a certain village in Norfolk. A goat and kid are generally kept in a pasture shared also by a white horse and a donkey. When the two latter happen to be in juxtaposition, the kid leaps on the back of the donkey, and thence on to the horse, where it makes itself quite at home, nibbling the mane, &c. The old horse does not resent the liberty, but walks quietly about the field. I have this story from a most trustworthy source. It brings out in a striking manner the agility of the goat in retaining its position on a moving horse, and the quietness of the latter in allowing the kid to mount it. With a little training the pair would be a decided novelty in a circus, I should say.

The annual marking of the swans between London Bridge and Henley took place lately. On this occasion 343 birds were caught and "nicked." More than half of these belonged to the Queen, and the rest to the Vintners and Dyers' Companies. The public-house sign, "The Swan with Three Necks," should really be "with three necks," and is due to this practice.

"H. L." wishes to know the best food for a jay. The bird will thrive on small pieces of meat, bread, vegetables, grain, fruit, and scraps in general. He should be frequently allowed out of his cage, pinioned if necessary, and will prove a very amusing pet. Jays readily learn to imitate the human voice and the sounds of animals.

This is the season when the annual migration of Londoners to the seaside usually commences. On the shore, particularly at low tide, and on the rocks, where such are present, there are a great variety of forms of life to be found. There is the beautiful sea anemone which looks more plant than animal, but which will quickly encircle your finger with its tentacles if you touch it. A creature which usually lives on the bed of the sea, but is often washed up, is the sea mouse, with beautiful iridescent hairs. There is the star fish, that often ill-used animal, to be seen lying about in plenty. This creature was at one time used as medicine, being reckoned especially valuable in hysterical diseases. Then the squid, a small kind of octopus, is sometimes seen. The squid is in the habit of emitting a cloud of ink-like matter when pursued in order to hide its escape. These and hundreds of other animals are to be found by the most casual observer.

I see from a cutting out of a Carlisle periodical that about 400 stoats and weasels have been sent from that district to New Zealand to help in reducing the numbers of the rabbits there. These carnivorous animals cost a good deal in their exportation. Their original price was 7s. 6d. for each stoat and 5s. for each weasel; but when their food, which consists of a pigeon once in three days, and their carriage, &c., are taken into account, the cost rises to 4s. or 4s. 6d. a head, which certainly seems a large sum. I hope that the colonists will receive much benefit from their purchases, but it is rather doubtful. Certainly stoats destroy a great quantity of rabbits. They seem able to fascinate them in some way, the rabbits often appearing paralysed from fear and unable to move. I have heard of cases in which the unfortunate rodent has been discovered running slowly in a circle round his persecutor, and of others in which he has been seen dragging himself along as though he were wounded. But I am afraid that the weasels and stoats will not increase nearly as quickly as the rabbits, and unless they do so, they will not have much chance against them.

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One of the most interesting parts of natural history is that which refers to the colours of animals. Everyone knows about the chameleon, but the stories about him are greatly exaggerated. He cannot change to any colour he pleases whenever he likes, as is often supposed. The green tree frog has a power of altering the shade of his colour to a great extent, sometimes becoming nearly black. I have noticed that when he is on a dark-green leaf, his hue approaches dark-green, and when his fern leaf is of a pale green, he is the same. Fish also are very variable, and a few minnows in a white bowl very soon lose all colour until they are restored to a darker place. Many interesting experiments have been carried on with minnows in regard to this phenomenon.

"Old China" has asked me whether hydrophobia exists among dogs in Australia. Perhaps some correspondent will oblige me with information on this subject. I have never read of a case there, and it is very probable that it is unknown. No much the better for the Australians and their dogs! I have heard the same thing about South Africa, but I cannot positively vouch for the accuracy of the statement.

It is a much-vexed question among naturalists whether the stories of showers of frogs, toads, and small fishes are to be relied upon. I do not see what reason there is for doubting them. In England, we sometimes have miniature whirlwinds of a very strong nature, and if one of these came upon a shoal of small minnows basking at the top of the water, there is no reason why it should not take them up and carry them alive for some distance. In the same way it would be easy enough for some small toads or frogs, that had just assumed the adult form, to take an aerial journey and descend, much to the wonder of some simple rustic. Some people hold the theory that the frogs had been hiding under leaves and stones, as they often do when so young, and that the shower of rain brought them out, but this theory will not explain the fact of fish descending.

"Piscator" writes to me:—"You mention that bats have been caught occasionally by fly fishers. This is quite correct, although I have heard it disputed. Being fond of fly fishing, I have often tried for dace and roach in the evening, at Salmon-pool, near Exeter, with a small black fly, the hook tipped with a piece of buck skin, and on three occasions have caught bats fairly by the mouth in throwing the fly. I may mention that I have done the same in South Africa in fly fishing for springers, a species of the trout family."

THE ACTOR.

Mr. Richard Mansfield was welcomed to the Lyceum stage by an audience of typical first-night "brilliance." I noticed in the stalls Mrs. Henry Irving, Mr. Henry Irving, jun., and Mr. Lawrence Irving; Miss Florence West, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Mr. Carl Rosa, Mr. Fernandez, and Mr. John Hollingshead, while, somewhere in the theatre, were Miss Agnes Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Macklin, Miss Dorothy Dene, Miss Marie de Grey, Mr. Willard, Mr. Alfred Cellier (newly home from Australia), Mr. H. A. Jones, and last, but not least, M. "Mac O'Rell."

This was a goodly show of celebrities, but nevertheless, the Gaiety (at which Miss Eyre was presenting "Marina") was not deserted by any of the well-known people. For instance, looking in between the acts of "Dr. Jekyll," I could see that Miss Amy Roselle and Mr. Arthur Dacre, Miss Gertrude Wardin, Miss Eva Wilson, and Miss Clo Graves (in a private box) were all to the fore, and that all the critics had not gone over to the other "show."

I may say that I was by no means surprised by the melodramatic intensity which Mr. Mansfield

threw into the rôle of Dr. Hyde. I had had the pleasure, two or three years ago, of seeing the young actor play Louis XI. in Mr. Wills's "Gringoire," and I had observed in that performance a capacity for acting much more emphatic and pronounced.

Curiously enough, my first memories of Mr. Mansfield are associated with his efforts in a line very different from that which he is now following—namely, comic opera. He was at one time a member of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's provincial companies, and it was then that I first saw him. That he should be able to sing is not surprising, for he is the son of a famous vocalist—Madame Budersdorf.

I have not seen stated anywhere—what is the fact—that the title which Mr. John Coleman has given to his adaptation of "Mr. Barnes of New York" is identical with that which George Lillo gave to his version of Shakespeare's "

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Mechanics*.)

There are a dozen districts in London where street rowdiness at night makes the thoroughfares almost impossible. For the misguided youth—the culprits—a club is suggested. Suppose, in the first instance, we simply tried a stick.

Mr. O'Donnell has gone to Geneva. Only Geneva! Mr. O'Donnell must be quite an exceptional Irish gentleman. Most of them go to whisky.

Mr. Gladstone took Mr. Healy's arm the other night. Mr. Healy must not be too much annoyed at this. Mr. Gladstone is so tired of being out of office, that he is ready to take anything just as present.

We do not quite understand what has been going on at the London School Board. One thing is certain, however, that no public body is well suited to inquire into the extent of its own back-slidings—any. We should like, for our own part, to have a commission—a good round commission—on the board's expenditure.

The United States is said to be about to claim some ironclads from us, which were paid for by Confederate money, and now fly the British flag. We sincerely say, let her have them; and if she will accept the gift, throw a few naval manœuvres in.

A patriot who, after leaving gaol, finds it necessary to take the pledge twice in three months, does not die of the way he has been treated in prison, but the way he has been treated outside.

For people who want to clear their character, Mr. Gladstone and his Irish friends show a singular reluctance to have their proceedings looked into. The Gladstonian contingent of the Parnellite gang appear to be even more afraid of inquiry than the originals themselves. That is to say, all are frightened except Master Herbert, who wants to be included in the subjects of the inquiry. He feels all the confidence of conscious innocence. The Hawarden jam-pots may tell tales upon investigation, but not of dynamite."

(From *Punch*.)

Infallible Cure for Corpulence—The "Sweating System."

"THE FLATTERING TALE."—Old Lady ("down upon Flattery") : That young man who is just going out, I suppose, is your brother, Jane?—Maid: No, m'. Not my brother, m'm—when he's a young man, m'm—most r'spect'ble, m'am—as I've 'opes of!"

RUPTURE AND INDIA-RUBBER.—Among the speakers at the recent Lambeth Conference:

"Several colonial and missionary bishops spoke of the difficulties they encountered in their dioceses owing to the want of elasticity in their forms of worship." If the forms are not elastic, they are stretchers. But couldn't some clever person invent forms that can be elongated so as to seat from four to fourteen? By the way, aren't the seats in church always being "let out?"

POEMABLE.—Dr. T-n-n-r., M.R.C., is said to be writing some new nursery rhymes to be called *Tullamore Tra-la-las*. He has got as far as "Barr, Barr, black sheep," but here the Muse has failed him.

THE SWITCHBACK ADAPTED.—Dr. Birch begs to inform his young friends that he has patented for use next school-time an entirely new invention, entitled "The Switchback."

(From *Judy*.)

AMONGST THE TAARTS! (Last week Mrs. Ayt, a confectioner, of Chester, obtained \$200 from Mr. Field for breach of promise of marriage.)

Amongst her taarts and eke her cakes,

This verdant Field he sought her;

He thought she was a "tart"—alas!

She proved to be a tart.

OUR BRITISH VOLUNTEERS.—It is quite probable that in the future small boys—than whom none find more delight than in the vain repetition of popular cries—will shout after our brave volunteers the sarcastic and derisive adjuration "Keep your hair on!" We are drawn towards this position by the following summary edict to the Second Battalion of the Essex Volunteers:—"All hair to be cut quite short." Several have already pronounced the mandate to be arbitrary in spirit and almost bald in principle. But worse is yet to follow. Another despotic decree has gone forth to the effect that "When possible, the moustache only is to be worn." No man will for the future receive pardon who is found in camp "barded like the pard." It would thus appear that the finest site for the Volunteer camp is in Barbary.

IT SUCCESSED.—Savage Tourist: Confounded wet spoils everything!—Boatman: Well now, sir, I don't know as you can say that, "zackly. Wet's all very well in its way, as my mate's said to me last night, "Bill, 'are a wet?" "Well," says I, "I don't mind—"—S. T.: Oh, get y'rself glass beer, and shut up!

THE LOST CHORD.—The cord of communication in a railway train when the necessity arises for its use.

AN EXCUSE.—"I say, Clara, are you going to Mrs. Shunby's in that dress?"—"Certainly. Why not?"—"Isn't it rather—er—loud?"—"Oh, well, that doesn't matter, Mrs. Shunby's deaf as a post."

(From *Fwn*.)

SCENE—A CRICKET MATCH. Time—Dusk.—She: Ah, good evening, Mr. Rufus. I recognised you in spite of the dusk directly you entered the field.—He (with great empressement): Did you, indeed, Miss Flirtter? And how did you recognise me? Was it by the sympathetic palpitation of two hearts that yearn to beat as one, or—?—She (hurriedly, perceiving Mr. Rightone approaching): Oh, no, Mr. Rufus. I think it must have been by the colour of your hair.

LESS THAN KING-D.—Her Parents Pride: Where are we going, papa?—Papa: To Cowes Regatta, my dear.—H. F. P.: Cowes! Don't the ha-la-bams ever have a regatta, papa?—Mamma: How clever of the darling, isn't it?—Papa: Bah!—Lambentable! [But H. F. P., unconviced, sings, "Cow and horses walk on four legs," &c.]

CUSTOMER.—I only want credit until Saturday—i will pay you then.—Tradesman: I would rather not sir, thank you.—Customer: But won't you take my word?—you know I always keep it.—Tradesman: Well, sir, it's like this—if I take your word, how are you going to keep it?

(From *Funny Folks*.)

GIVING THE COLD SHOULDER.—A German, living at Frankfort, recently secured a divorce from his wife on the ground that she did not know how to cook. Our experience in this matter is that when we complain of the cold mutton our better half makes it pretty hot for us. That in Germany a man should be able to get a divorce for such a reason appears to us to be rather a strong, not to say Teutonic a remedy.

NACK ON NORWEG.—The swan "uppers" commenced their uppersations this week in the Upper Thames. It is the young swans or cygnets upon which a mark or seal is set, a signet ring being of course used for the purpose. This is technically termed "nicking," and we need scarcely say that the reason why the "upper" nick the swans is to prevent them being "nicked" by dishonest persons. Swan-upping is an interesting example of the punctuality with which the corporation discharges its obligations. The young swans have only to present their "bills," when they are instantly "stamped."

THE BANK ON WHICH WILD TIME GROWS—BANK HOLIDAY.—Why, cert'nly.

THE ONLY CROPS THAT HAVE NOT SUFFERED FROM THE RAIN.—The ducks.

DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT.—Telling your musically-throated friend that his (or her) voice reminds you of a lye.

(From *Ally Sloper*.)

"Let us take Noah now. What was he remarkable for?" said a tutor, who was cramming a stupid pupil. Pupil, in a hopeless state of imbecility, gazes at his toes for inspiration. "The Ark?" put the tutor, suggestively. "Oh, yes! he was the first architect," exclaimed the pupil, jumping at it. "If you had said the first naval architect, you might have been nearer the mark," replied the tutor.

Londoner (at four cross-roads, with ten minutes

to catch a train). I say, my man, which is the quickest way for me to get to Stoke Pogis Station? Stoke Pogis (looking carefully round him). Well, ma-ester, as I don't see s'er a co-art in sight, I shud say ye'd best run.

"All Smith's blinds are down over the way," said Mr. Brown. "I wonder if anyone's dead?" "No, dear," replied his wife, "I shouldn't think so." "Why not?" asked Mr. Brown. "Why, the doctor's carriage hasn't stopped there for over three months."

"Humph! Have you not been previously charged at this court with picking pockets, prisoner?" observed the magistrate to a youthful miscreant charged with loitering with intent to commit a felony. "No, yer honour, I ain't never been caught yet," was the answer.

"Oh, John, you remember that bottle of stout you sent in yesterday?" said she. "Yes," replied he. "Well, it was shameful," she declared. "It made mother so ill. I wonder it didn't kill her. You ought to speak to the man about it." "I will. I'll order a dozen of it," answered he, with satisfaction.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From *St. Stephen's Review*.)

I am given to understand that the Queen is excessively annoyed at the comments in the public press as to the fetching away of the Emperor Frederick's diary from Berlin. It is scarcely necessary to contradict this ridiculous rumour, but let any one ask himself the question whether it is at all likely that the Royal family of England and the Imperial family of Germany would permit such a scandal, if it existed, to become known. The plain English is this: the Emperor Frederick never kept a diary of the importance and magnitude suggested and described. He may have jotted down his ideas in commonplace books, or kept a book of scraps like the majority of us, but the thirty-seven volumes are apocryphal.

It is high time that the Carlton people decided upon the measures, if any, they propose to take for stirring the country during the recess. The Liberal Unionists have already decided upon a plan of campaign to counterbalance the numerous meetings which are to be held by the Gladstonians. Mr. Schmidhorst and Mr. Gladstone know what they are about. They will leave no stone unturned to influence voters in their favour. Nevertheless, dull apathy remains supreme at Conservative head-quarters. If they wish to keep their party in office, the Tories must be up and doing. New blood is sadly needed somewhere.

I do not think that any court will consent to permit a new trial in the case of O'Donnell v. Walter and Another, and I am told that the plaintiff has been assured by excellent authorities that his application will certainly be refused. Mr. O'Donnell will probably, nevertheless, make an application; but it is felt that he is practically done with, and considering the magnitude of the other questions which have been raised, it would be absurd to attach importance to any action he may think proper to take. It is true, I believe, that Mr. Ruegg has received his fees, and that Mr. O'Donnell appears by no means short of cash.

On Saturday Miss May Anderson celebrated her thirtieth birthday.

(From *Life*.)

When Prince Oscar of Sweden was travelling round the world in pursuit of experience, he displayed a good deal of the Bohemianism which seems to be inherent in the Royal Family of Sweden, and which is no doubt derived from their great ancestor, the soldier of fortune, Marshal Charles Bernadotte. He neither preserved State nor desired its observance, and he made acquaintances with ease and frankness. While stopping in the Sandwich Isles he became acquainted with two Californians, who, it seems, have retained a very vivid recollection of his bonhomie, and absence of hauteur; for when the news of his marriage reached them, they wrote at once to congratulate him, wishing him all the happiness possible. His reply was as simple as their letter, thanking them heartily, and referring with pleasure to past memories.

It may not be generally known that the Queen of Naples, who is living in exile in France, is almost as fond of riding and horse-racing as the Duchess Dowager of Montrose. She has a capital stud of racers, and devotes the greater part of her attention to the sport.

Inspired, no doubt, by the example of the Indian prince who visited Europe last year, two other Oriental potentates are seriously contemplating a visit to the lands of Western civilisation, more commonly known in the East as the lands of the infidel. One of these potentates is the King of Cambodia, who has officially announced his intention of coming to France on the very inappropriate occasion of the Exhibition to be held at Paris next year in honour of the taking of the Bastille and the outbreak of the Revolution. The other is the Ameer of Afghanistan, the fierce and wary Abdurrahman, who proposes to pay a short visit to his powerful ally and protector, the Empress of India (Kaiser-i-Hind).

The Prince of Wales has been credited with many extraordinary projects, few of which have ever been realised, but of all the announcements of his Royal highness's plans and intentions, which from time to time are busily circulated by gossiping papers, whose information is as unreliable as their ingenuity is unlimited, that which ascribes to him a contemplated visit to the States, in company with the Duke of Sutherland, next autumn, is by far the most preposterous speculation of recent manufacture. I need hardly say that the Prince of Wales does not entertain the idea of visiting America this year; but, supposing that he did, it is improbable to the last degree that his companion de voyage would be his grace of Sutherland, seeing that for some time past the Prince has not received the Duke in his own social set, for reasons which are patent to all who know the present position of his grace at Court.

(From *The World*.)

A cloudy semi-official denial to the statements which appeared in these columns a fortnight ago about the diary of the late Emperor Frederick has been published in a German paper; but I maintain the absolute accuracy of the information on this subject. Bitter squabbling is now going on at Berlin and at Potsdam about the jointure of the Empress Frederick, the allowances of her daughters, and the will of the late Emperor; and the Emperor William threatens to take steps to invalidate the will unless the diary is brought back from England and surrendered to him, in order that it may be placed in the family archives at Berlin. I hear that the King of Saxony, Prince Albrecht of Prussia, the Grand Duke of Baden, and Prince Bismarck are endeavouring to bring about an amicable arrangement between the Emperor and his mother, in order to avert a public scandal of such a reason as to us to be rather a strong, not to say Teutonic a remedy.

NACK ON NORWEG.—The swan "uppers" commenced their uppersations this week in the Upper Thames. It is the young swans or cygnets upon which a mark or seal is set, a signet ring being of course used for the purpose. This is technically termed "nicking," and we need scarcely say that the reason why the "upper" nick the swans is to prevent them being "nicked" by dishonest persons. Swan-upping is an interesting example of the punctuality with which the corporation discharges its obligations. The young swans have only to present their "bills," when they are instantly "stamped."

THE EMPRESS FREDERICK.—The Empress Frederick is recovering somewhat from the first paroxysm of her grief, and now takes an interest in many of the matters which she and her husband cared for. There is no doubt that the Emperor William would be a kind son to her if he were allowed; but the influences about him are very antagonistic to the Empress Frederick, who has not done enough to conciliate them. She has had much to suffer from the hatred and mistrust of the Court party at Berlin; one fact is a sufficient evidence of it, were it needed. While her husband and she were at San Remo, all her private letters to London and Berlin had to be sent by special messenger to Berlin, and forwarded through her private bag. The telegraph wires at San Remo, I am informed, were tapped by orders of the German Government, and the private messages sent by her to her mother and family were known at Berlin before they were received in England by the Queen.

The Prince of Wales goes early next week to Homburg, where he intends to stay, as usual, for twenty-one days. The subsequent plans of the prince are not yet fixed, but he will visit Copenhagen next month, and he does not intend to remain there for a week.

return to England till the beginning of October. The Princess of Wales and her daughters are also going to Germany, and subsequently to Denmark.'

The attack on Mr. Justice Day was one of the most disgraceful incidents in last week's debate. From Sir William Harcourt no one expects better things; but Mr. Morley has hitherto maintained a certain amount of reserve and self-respect in championing the rebel Irish cause, and his share in the attack has distressed his friends. The letter he relied on might have influenced many people, if he had not disclosed the writer's name. Mr. Richard Adams is seeking to win a spurs as a Parnellite, and there is not one of the set who is capable of a single generous thought about any one who differs from them. What, too, is to be said of Mr. Gladstone's identifying himself with such an outrage upon all fairness and honour and decency?

The third life which was in danger at the time of the Phoenix Park murders, to which Captain O'Shea alludes in his letter to the Times, was Mr. Parnell's. Mr. Parnell was painfully conscious of this danger, and showed it in the most unmistakable manner. It was no secret at the time that he was in a state of terror not to be described. To the extreme members of the conspiracy then existing he was a traitor of the darkest hue. The Kilmainham Treaty and his assurances of help to the Government made him detested and distrusted among his followers, and he went about for a long time in constant dread of assassination.

(From *Truth*.)

Extensive decorative work has recently been carried out at Buckingham Palace. Several of the best pictures have been re-hung. The entrance hall has been entirely re-decorated, and improvements have been made in the arrangements of the ball-room and other State apartments. The lift, which was made for the accommodation of the late Duke of Albany, at a cost of £2,000, has been removed.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Prince and Princess Christian are the only members of the Royal family who now have apartments in Buckingham Palace, and the Queen does not allow those apartments to be occupied by the individuals to whom they are appropriated for more than a certain number of nights in each London season, or for more than three nights in succession, except by special permission.

I hear that the relations between the Emperor William and his mother are a good deal more than "strained." Nothing but the influence of Prince Bismarck has prevented the Emperor from summoning a Hohenzollern family council for the purpose of formally declaring that the late Emperor's will and settlements are invalid, as his state of health should have disqualified him from ascending the throne last March. This step may yet be taken, unless the Empress Victoria gives up the papers which were sent to England with the Queen, and which are now understood to be deposited at Windsor. The result would be that, while the public acts of the Emperor Frederick would be unaffected, the Emperor William would be placed in precisely the same position, so far as money goes, as if he had succeeded his grandfather, and the Empress Victoria would be reduced to the very moderate jointure of a dowager crown princess, and her younger children would have their allowances greatly cut down.

The Emperor Frederick left a sum of about £150,000, which is invested in English securities, to the Empress for life, and then to his younger children as she may appoint, and the trustees are the Queen, the King of the Belgians, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He bequeathed other moneys in Germany, that were at his own disposal, in the same way, and there is a special direction in his will that the Prussian Government is not to have any control over any part of this property.

THE WALTHAMSTOW TRAGEDY.

Inquest and Verdict.

Mr. C. C. Lewis, the Essex coroner, concluded on Wednesday, at Walthamstow, his inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. Annie Mary French, under circumstances already fully reported in the *People*, for which William Barber, aged 33, a chemist's assistant, in the employment of Mr. E. H. Haftulon, of the Market Place, Walthamstow, now stands remanded at Stratford Petty Sessions, charged with administering a certain noxious drug on the 21st of July last. When the court was opened there was a good deal of excitement, largely owing to the arrest of Barber and to an expectation that he would be examined. Mr. Edmund Harry Hamilton, of St. James's-street, Walthamstow, deposed that he had a shop in the Marlborough-road, of which Barber was manager. He had known the deceased very well for about five years. William Barber had been in his service about two years, and lived on the premises. For the first half of the time Barber had been in the habit of extracting teeth. Dr. Charles M. Tidy said he was one of the Government analysts, and on the 23rd July he received at the London Hospital six jars and bottles sealed. He described the contents of each bottle. The post mortem appearances of the organs and parts of the body submitted presented nothing which would suggest the cause of death. No trace of chloroform odour could be detected when the bottles were first opened, nor could any chloroform be found upon detailed examination. From the stomach he extracted two-tenths of a grain of morphine, and in the bladder and urine he found distinct traces of morphine—he was not able to estimate the quantity, but he obtained well-marked chemical reactions. The fact of morphine being found in the urine was to be regarded as proof that not only had the morphine been taken in the stomach, but had been absorbed into the body. He thought death had resulted from morphine poisoning. In answer to questions, the witness said he was of opinion that death was caused by morphine and not by chloroform. A poisonous dose of the drug must have been taken. It was possible that both drugs might have been taken. The deceased might have placed the bottle back in the surgery after taking the morphine. It was stated that two bottles of morphine were found in the shop.—This concluded the evidence.—The coroner, in summing up, said the case was more and more difficult and mysterious. He had to leave the matter in the hands of the jury. If a medical man, qualified or unqualified, took upon himself to administer medicine, and by gross negligence administered more than he ought, that would make such a person guilty of manslaughter; while if an overdose were wilfully administered he would be guilty of murder. The clear evidence of Dr. Tidy showed that in this case the cause of death was morphine poison. How it was taken was a mystery.—The jury, having consulted for some time in private, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased came by her death through morphine-poison; but whether taken by herself or given by another person or persons there was not sufficient evidence to show.

ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF AN AMERICAN HEIRESS.

A German named Oscar Morlar, aged 23, was charged, at Bow-street Police Court, with the abduction of a young American lady named Elsa Elias. The circumstances were briefly reported in the *People* last week.—

LAST WEEK'S
LAW AND POLICE.

Central Criminal Court.

(Before Mr. Justice Hawkins.)

THE LIBEL ON SIR R. HANSON.—Charles Henry Harrod, a Fellowship Porter, who had pleaded guilty to publishing a number of libels upon Alderman Sir R. Hanson, was brought up for judgment.—The prisoner was a Fellowship Porter, and he was discharged from the society in 1883. Alderman Sir R. Hanson being the Governor of the society. Since then he had carried on a constant course of annoyance by a series of postcards.—The prisoner promised not to continue the annoyance, which was all that was desired, and he was discharged upon entering into recognisance to appear and receive judgment if called upon.

A SHOOTING CASE.—Walter Ramsby, 27, was indicted for feloniously shooting at Frederick Mansell with intent to murder him.—The prisoner was potman at the White Lion, Little James-street, Bloomsbury, and it was stated that the barmaid, a young woman named Foley, had complained of the manner in which he did his work. This made him very angry, and he called her bad names, and the told him that she should complain to the prosecutor, who was her sweetheart. In consequence of this the prosecutor remonstrated with the prisoner, and on the 25th of June the two met, and the prisoner pulled out a revolver and fired at the prosecutor and wounded him, but not very seriously. The prisoner had on previous occasions used threats towards the prosecutor, and once said that he would dash his brains out with stool. When the prisoner was taken into custody, he said to the prosecutor, "I hope you are satisfied now." He also remarked that the prosecutor had nearly strangled him some days before, and he would not forget it, but he added that he was sorry for what he had done.—The defence set up was that the prisoner had no intention to do serious mischief to the prosecutor, but that he had acted on a sudden impulse. The prisoner received a very good character.—The jury found the prisoner guilty of unlawfully wounding, and he was sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

Probate and Divorce Division.

(Before Mr. Justice Butt.)

BORRERS v. ROBERTS.—This was the petition of Mrs. Mary Jane Roberts for a divorce by reason of the cruelty and adultery of her husband, Mr. John Roberts. There was no defence.—Mr. Scars, who appeared for the petitioner, said that the parties were married on the 18th April, 1878, at the British Consulate, Shanghai, the respondent at that time being in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. There were two children of the marriage. They lived together upon good terms until 1882, when Mrs. Roberts was obliged to come to this country on account of her health. She corresponded with her husband and returned to Shanghai in February, 1882, when she found a great difference in him. She also discovered that he had formed an improper intimacy with a Mrs. MacArthur, the wife of a marine engineer, who lived at Shanghai. This led to quarrels, and upon several occasions he was guilty of cruelty towards his wife. She did all she could to break off this connection, but without success. At last, finding that he was determined to continue this connection, she presented a petition for a divorce, but subsequently some friends intervened and persuaded her to give her husband another trial. In September, 1883, after some hesitation, she resumed cohabitation, but within eight days he was again with Mrs. MacArthur, after which a supplemental petition was filed for a divorce.—Mrs. Roberts was called and bore out the opening statement of counsel. She said that her husband had threatened to shoot her. He always carried two revolvers in his pocket and she was frightened of him.—Corroborative evidence was given of the cruelty, while testimony was adduced to the effect that Mr. Roberts and Mrs. MacArthur, who had been separated from her husband, were living together as man and wife.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs and custody of the child.

HOLLOWAY v. HOLLOWAY AND MALONE.—Mr. Pritchard appeared for the petitioner, Mr. James Holloway, who sought a divorce by reason of the bigamy and adultery of his wife with the co-respondent. The marriage took place on the 29th December 1870, and Mr. and Mrs. Holloway afterwards lived together at Newcastle-on-Tyne. He took a public-house, but it did not answer, after which his wife left him. He went to Leeds to seek work, but became very ill, and had to go into the hospital. Through the assistance of a clergyman he stated that he went to Newcastle, and in consequence of what he heard, he instituted this suit.—His lordship pointed out that a husband had no business to leave his wife and not make any inquiry as to her whereabouts. Evidence was given of the bigamous marriage which took place at Shields.—Mr. Blount, clerk to the petitioner's solicitor, proved serving the respondent and co-respondent with the divorce papers, the latter stating that he did not know that her husband was alive.—Mr. Justice Butt: That is just it. She supposed that her husband was dead and married again. There will be a decree nisi, and before it is made absolute I shall consider whether I ought to lay the papers before the Queen's Proctor.

Bow-Street.

MR. GLADSTONE'S NEIGHBOURS.—James Wickin was charged with stealing £4 from the person of William Beale Marston.—The prosecutor is a colliery owner, living at Mold, which he explained as "You know, where Mr. Gladstone lives." On Friday afternoon he was in the Nag's Head public-house, Queen-street, Covent Garden. He had been taken there by a man who knew his name and position, and pretended to be an old friend but addressing the magistrate—"You know, as I found out afterwards, that was all rubbish. I was seized by the arms from the back while the prisoner raged my pockets. I caught hold of him and gave him into custody."—Mr. Bridge asked if there was a policeman there. The prosecutor: Well sir, strange to say, there was. (Laughter.) The presence of the officer was explained by the son of the landlord, who said that, noticing the prisoner put his hand into the prosecutor's pocket, he told him to desist, and as he would not do so he sent for the constable.—Police-constable 243 E said that when he heard the sound he found the prosecutor and the prisoner struggling together. The prisoner had £4 in gold and some coppers in his hand. The prosecutor stated that he had lost altogether over £10.—In reply to Mr. Bridge he said he was not very drunk, but he could not drink half as well now as he could when he was a young man.—Warden Turrell said that the prisoner had been twice previously convicted.—Mr. Bridge decided to send the prisoner for trial, and as the depositions were being read over, prosecutor said, "Yes, that's all right, but I hope to God you're not going to put it in all the papers." Mr. Bridge, addressing the inspector on duty, said it was a question to be considered whether the landlord of the house ought not to be proceeded against for allowing a man to get drunk on his premises. A person in court, who was said to be the prosecutor's son, said he was afraid his father had had enough to drink before he went to this house.—Mr. Bridge: At any rate, he had been served with liquor there.

Marlborough-street.

ALTHOUGH HE WAS A CRIPPLE.—James Lander, wire-worker, a cripple, with a profusion of curly red hair, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Wardour-street on Friday night.—Constable 111 C said the prisoner was with several other men, shouting and creating disorder, and as he would not go away, and defied his authority to remove him, he was taken into custody.—The Prisoner: I was not extraordianrily drunk, your worship. How could I be extraordianrily drunk when I'm a cripple? (Laughter.) I was talking to another gentleman about this infernal weather, when the policeman came up and ordered me to move on. I said I would go the other prisoners. They were the only persons

quietly, but he would not let me, your worship, and said I was drunk. I could not have been so extraordianrily drunk if I could walk away, although I am a cripple. It was the policeman who used bad language. He swore at me afew times. And I could scarcely believe my own ears. (Laughter.) Sergeant Brewer, the gaoler, spoke to frequent visits of the prisoner on a charge of drunkenness, and Mr. Newton ordered him to pay the drunkard's fine of 5s.

A BOY BURGLAR.—William Kelly, aged 16, who described himself as a button polisher, living at a lodging-house in Short's-gardens, Drury-lane, was charged with attempting to burglariously break and enter No. 33, Gerrard-street, with intent to steal. The evidence was that shortly before one o'clock in the morning Detectives Darby, Wyers, and Crackett were in the neighbourhood of Gerrard-street when they saw the prisoner lurking about in a very suspicious manner. They watched him for some time, and eventually saw him scale the railings of No. 33 and drop down into the area. After another period of waiting, they obtained a policeman's lantern, and directing its light towards the prisoner, saw that he was endeavouring to force open the area door of the house. Darby thereupon dropped down by his side, and demanded what he was doing. He let his jemmy free, replied that he was quite alone, and intended to break into the house, the door of which he expected to find open. The panel of the door was very nearly broken open, and on being told that he would be arrested for burglary, he replied, "All right, I am tired of this. I am starving, and may as well be in as out of prison." On him were found two pieces of candle, two wedges, a knife, and a box of silent matches. Several persons carried on business in the house, which was said to be securely locked and barred, and a caretaker slept on the premises. On the application of Detective Darby, the prisoner was remanded.

Marylebone.

A SUICIDED PERSON.—A man, giving the name of Frederick Williams, aged 25, was charged with being a suspected person. Sergeant Pincombe was passing along Sutherland Avenue a little before ten at night, when he heard a noise in the area of No. 103. He looked down, and saw the prisoner shaking the kitchen door. When spoken to he made an excuse, which did not satisfy the officer, who took him into custody. The prisoner gave two addresses, which turned out to be false.—Sergeant Cooper said the prisoner was sentenced at Marlborough-street Police Court in 1886 to two months' imprisonment for the unlawful possession of electric bells, which were believed to have been stolen.—The prisoner protested his innocence, but Mr. Cooke remarked that his past history and all the circumstances of the case were against him. He sentenced him to six weeks' imprisonment.

Clerkenwell.

ATTEMPTED WATCH STEALING.—James Gordon, aged 34, labourer, was charged with attempting to steal a watch from the person of William Inward, in the King's Cross-road.—The prosecutor said that the prisoner and another man came up to him in Leek-street, King's Cross-road, between eleven and twelve on Friday night, and attempted to steal his watch and pick his pocket. He struggled with them and managed to elicit the prisoner till a constable came up.—The landlord of the Lord Brougham beer-house said on Friday night the prosecutor came into his house with two negroes, and called for a pot of ale. Prosecutor had evidently been drinking before, but witness did not consider him drunk, so served him. Afterwards the prisoner and another man came in, and the prisoner began waltzing with the prosecutor trying meanwhile to pick his pockets. Noticing this, witness kept a watch on the two men, and called the attention of his wife and some others to them. Presently prosecutor said he had to go to Notting Hill, and prisoner and the other man offered to show him the way. They all three went out together, and the two men led the prosecutor down Leek-street, a dark, narrow by-way, which was certainly not the way to Notting Hill. At witness's request, some of his customers followed the three men down the street.—Police-constable Dunlop, 18 G.E., said he saw the prosecutor clinging to the prisoner, who said to him, "It's all right, this is my father-in-law, I am taking him home."—Mr. Barstow remanded the case, and directed the police to try to arrest the other man.

Thames.

EAST-END THIEVES.—Robert Fullerton was charged with assaulting Samuel Geoch and attempting to steal his watch and chain.—Samuel Geoch, of 17, Grove-street, Commercial-road, St. George's, said: At half-past eleven o'clock on Friday night I was walking along Commercial-road with a friend, when the prisoner and another man came up to me. The accused struck me a violent blow on the chest and tried to pull my watch and chain from my pocket. I caught hold of him, but he struck me in the eye and ran away.—Police-constable Joseph Soper, 32 H.E., said that on Friday night he was with Constable King, in Commercial-road, near to Star-street, when he saw the prisoner, who was in company with another man, make a blow at the prosecutor, and the other man called out "Tocs." The prisoner made a second blow at the prosecutor, tried to pull his watch from his pocket, and ran away, but was pursued by King, who caught him.—Constable King desisted from apprehending the prisoner, and, in reply to the charge, he said, "I know I am in the wrong, and if I get out of this you won't see me about Star-street again."—Mr. Lushington said it was perfectly clear the prisoner was attempting to steal the prosecutor's watch, and he sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

detained in custody, but it was intended to proceed against the other persons found in the place, and he had to apply for summonses against a large number of them. It had therefore been arranged with the defence that, whilst the police were investigating the matter, a formal remand should be taken. The articles seized included a number of books for betting, entries, dice and dice-boxes, gaming-clothes, racing-tickets, playing-cards, &c., but very little money.—Mr. Geoghegan said he agreed to the adjournment, it being understood that bail was not objected to. He would be prepared at the proper time to prove that the place was a genuine club-house, with its committee and elected members.—Mr. Wontner said there were clubs and clubs. He hoped Mr. Geoghegan did not suggest a comparison between clubs as understood at the West-end and such places as the one in question.—Mr. Bushby said he would consent to bail, but Hood, the proprietor, would be held most responsible, and he therefore fixed the bail for him at two sureties of £200 each.—The sureties were not provided, and the prisoner was removed in custody.

Westminster.

ASSAULTING A STEP-MOTHER.—Rose Peel, a well-dressed girl of 17 or 18, was charged on remand, before Mr. Partridge, with knocking her step-mother's eye out with the spout of a tea-kettle at her residence in Willow-street, Westminster.—The prosecutrix, Mary Peel, an elderly woman, appeared in the witness-box with a surgical bandage over her right eye, the sight of which, she stated, had been completely destroyed. For about a fortnight she was in the hospital. The prisoner, on the 12th of July, threw a kettle at her, and she supposed that the spout caused the injury, but it was done so quickly that she could not positively say how it came about. In consideration of the prisoner's youth she would forgive her, and she trusted that his worship would overlook it and discharge her.—Mr. Partridge: I have no power to look over it.—Prosecutrix: I don't wish to have her punished. I aggravated the girl by calling her a bad name, and I don't think she is altogether responsible for her actions.—The Magistrate: Why not?—Prosecutrix: Eleven years ago she fell and injured her head very badly.—Constable Pacon, 761 A, said when the prosecutrix came to the station to complain she was bleeding terribly, and when he arrested the prisoner she admitted causing the injury, and expressed no regret. She had been in custody ever since.—Mr. Partridge committed her for trial to the Middlesex Sessions, for unlawfully wounding. He would take bail—two sureties of £15 each.

Lambeth.

PICKPOCKETS CAPTURED.—Henry Campbell, 39, alias Lakeman, and Thomas Dunn, 18, alias Hodson, were charged, on remand, before Mr. Chance, with attempting to pick pockets in Walworth-road.—An independent witness stated that he was in the Walworth-road a few nights back, and saw the prisoners try the pockets of several persons in that thoroughfare. The parties who were so "waited upon" by the prisoners were chiefly females of a poor class, who were out buying food for the home. The witness followed the prisoners about for some time, and saw one of them throw a purse into a garden in Carter-street. He obtained the assistance of a constable at Carter-street Police Station, and the prisoners were ultimately taken into custody. Upon the first hearing both prisoners declared they were "innocent as lambs," but Mr. Chance declined to accept that explanation after the evidence he had heard, and directed a remand for inquiry.—It was now stated by Police-sergeant Arrow, of the convict department, Scotland Yard, that the prisoner Campbell, in the name of Lakeman, on the 5th August, 1879, was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude, and previous to that seven years for stealing from the person. He had been charged with stabbing and other offences. With regard to Dunn, he was an ex-convict, and had terms of five years' penal servitude and other convictions. The prisoners were in the habit of hanging about market places on Saturday nights and picking the pockets of poor people who had come out to buy the food for Sunday with the wages of the hard-working husband.—Mr. Chance directed the prisoners to three months' hard labour.

Wandsworth.

A QUEER SORT OF WOMAN.—Clara Guildford, residing at Fullerton-road, Wandsworth, was brought up on a warrant charged with wilfully damaging a window at the residence of Mr. Walter Scott, of Fullerton-road.—Mrs. Higgins, who resided at East Hill, said on the 21st ult. she saw the prisoner with a dog-whip in one hand and an umbrella in the other, smash a large pane of glass in the bay window of Mr. Scott's residence. Witness saw her again on the 1st inst., when she broke two more windows.

The prisoner, who was without hat or bonnet, and her hair dressed in coils, asked a number of irrelevant questions, and alleged that she had been subject to considerable annoyance.—Mrs. Scott said she was a dangerous woman, and not fit to be at large.—Police-constable Ralph, one of the warrant officers of the court, said that on Friday he went to the prisoner's house to execute the warrant. In reply to the charge he said, "I did it, and will do it again. I will burn the place down." She refused to accompany him to the police station, and rushed upstairs. Knowing that she was in the habit of locking herself in her room, he followed her upstairs. She then became in an excited state, screamed "Murder," scratched his face, and spat in it. She afterwards calmed down and walked to the station quietly.—The prisoner told the magistrate that he forced his way into her house and followed her to her bed-room. She called him a vile, obscene beast, and was told by the magistrate that he could not allow language of that kind.—Prisoner: So he is: a man has no right to enter a woman's bed-room.—Mr. Scott said on the last occasion she broke the window with a hammer. She also threw the hammer into the room, damaging a portion of the furniture. The prisoner stated that twelve of her windows had been broken, and she could not leave the house without being annoyed in the vilest manner, followed by people from Mr. Scott's, and abused.—Mrs. Higgins here exclaimed, "You wicked woman!"—It was also stated that the prisoner threw flower pots at the children, and Constable Ralph expressed an opinion that she was not answerable for her actions.—Mr. Plewden decided to remand the prisoner, and desired that she should be medically examined as to her state of mind.

Dalston.

SOMETHING FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.—A singular looking woman was among the applicants for advice. She said that for nine years her husband had not lived with her, seven years ago he brought her from Newcastle and since then he had given her an old woman ten shillings per week to board and lodge her. He was in a good position and had £300 a year.—Mr. Bros: Do you complain that he does not give me enough money?—Applicant: What he gives me is enough to pay for what I eat and drink, but he says I am insane. He won't let me see the children, and he won't live with me. He won't meet me in the Divorce Court, in the "separation court," or any other court. He won't let me see anything, but keeps me in this house with three old women to wait upon me.—Mr. Bros: He keeps you. I can't do anything for you.—Applicant (with energy): But you must do something. I managed to get to the police, and I have been sent here by the inspector at Hackney Police Station.—Mr. Bros: Then he must come here and explain what he wants me to do.—The poor woman wished to say more, but was told that she must leave the court, and she did so, looking very dejected.

Stratford.

POLICE RAID ON A HOXTON CLUB.—Robert Hood, 33, described as a club proprietor, of 44, Myrtle-street, Hoxton; Charles Lewis, 44, grocer, East-road, Hoxton; Elias Isaacs, 18, no occupation, of 418, Mile End-road; Alexander Alexander, 33, shoemaker, of Slater-street, Brick-lane; and John Morley, 28, printer, of Hoxton-street, were brought up on a warrant issued by Colonel Pearson, assistant commissioner of police and J.P. for Middlesex, and charged with keeping and taking part in keeping a common gaming house at 44, Myrtle-street, Hoxton, contrary to the Act 8 and 9 Vic., cap. 109. Mr. St. John Wontner appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Geoghegan, barrister, for some of the prisoners.—Superintendent Hunt, 6 Division, was in charge of the case, and it seemed that he, with Detective-Inspector Peel and other officers, made a sudden descent on the premises in question on Friday afternoon and captured therein besides the prisoners before the court more than eighty other persons. The place was known as the New Myrtle Club; but Mr. Wontner said that he should prove that it was kept by certain persons for gaming purposes; that Hood was the nominal proprietor, and managed the place, assisted by

THE SPORTING YOUNG LADY
AND THE BETTING MAN.

A very well-dressed young woman, who said she resided with a cousin at Lavender Hill, applied to Mr. Partridge, at Westminster Police Court, stating that she had been defrauded of a sum of £2 under the following circumstances. She had done a little betting lately in the neighbourhood of Victoria Station, and some three weeks ago, as she was standing near a letter-box, a postman in uniform, who had ascertained from a shoeshop boy the fact that she was interested in racing—the boy having been employed by her to take commissions to a bookmaker—introduced himself by asking whether she "had done anything" that day, meaning, of course, whether she had backed any horses. She said she had not done anything, and he then said that he wished he had only seen her a little sooner, because he could have "put her on a real good thing"—a certain winner. He suggested that she should meet him early next afternoon at the pillar-box, and then he, having information of a winner the instant it came up on the tape, they could "get on S.P." (starting price) with a man he knew who was a great fool with his money. (Laughter.) The postman assured her that this gentleman did not mind what money he lost, and said that he was himself going to put on £5 each way, to win and 1, 2, 3. She did not quite like it, but as he pressed her to put all the money she could on the horse, and told her that it would be all right, she made an appointment for the day following. He met her then out of uniform, explaining that he was in ordinary attire because he represented himself to the bookmaker, who was a very nice sort of man, as a gentleman's servant, and she went with him in a cab to a place he called the club, where he was to get the winner off the taps the second it came up. He was in the building a moment, jumped in the cab again, said he had got the winner all right—it was "Holyoak"—and they drove rapidly back to Victoria, where, opportunely waiting, was the postman's friend, with whom they were to bet. The postman handed the other man what purported to be a £10 note, and she gave him all she had in her purse, a sum of £2.—Mr. Partridge: And I suppose you lost your money?—Applicant: Yes. The horse had won, but I never even got my money back. The next day the postman tried to persuade me to put more money on, and so he did the day afterwards, and when I complained I had not been paid he pretended to put out, and said he had lost his own £10. He also informed me that the gentleman who took their money had been robbed of £100 in the street, but the police have never heard of it, and it is not true. No doubt I was very foolish, and I never ought to have countenanced such a thing, but I believe I have been the victim of a conspiracy.—Mr. Partridge: Have you seen this postman since?—Applicant: Yes. I have seen him several times; the last time about a week ago at Victoria Station. He would not take much notice of me, because he had tried to get me to find £2 or £3 more. I said I had not got it, and his remark was, "You can easily get some more money."—Mr. Partridge: Where did you get the £2 from?—Applicant: It is part of what I saved when I was in a situation. I was engaged at a large draper's in Blackfriars. Besides that, I have money from my friends, who live at Sheffield, Yorks. My father, who is not in business, is fairly well off.—Mr. Partridge said it was one of the most extraordinary stories he had ever heard, but he could only refer the applicant to the police.—Inspector Saden, A Division, shortly afterwards informed his worship that the applicant admitted to him that at the time he backed the horse the race had been run nearly half-an-hour. No doubt she thought she was going to get the best of the betting man, but it was the other way about.—Mr. Partridge said there might be some inquiry, and if there was sufficient evidence she could renew the application, and lay information for warrants. Applicant proceeded to the police station, and there conferred with a detective officer.

THE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

The executive committee of this society concluded on Saturday its quarterly meeting, the sittings extending over four days, at the head office, Colebrooke-row, Islington, the Middlesex delegate presiding. There was a full attendance of delegates from other railway centres.—The report, submitted by Mr. E. Harford, general secretary, which showed a satisfactory increase in the numbers and funds of the society, was received with a vote of thanks. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. F. A. Channing, M.P., for his continued exertions on behalf of useful railway legislation. The action of the general secretary, in conjunction with the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, over the Employers' Liability Bill was approved. With reference to the bill for the weekly payment of wages, the following resolution was passed: "That this executive committee approves of the bill for the weekly payment of wages, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Fenwick, M.P., and recommends every branch of the Amalgamated Society to assist in gaining support for it by passing a resolution in its favour, and instructing the branch secretaries to forward copies to the representatives of their several divisions in the House of Commons asking them to vote for the said bill."

CARBOLIC ACID FOR RUM.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—August 4.

Commutation of Pensions.

Mr. BRODRICK, in answer to Sir G. Campbell, stated that the whole subject of the commutation of military and naval pensions was under consideration, but the Secretary of State was not at present in a position to say what decision would be arrived at. The matter would be carefully considered.

The Bank of England.

Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN, for Mr. Cunningham, asked whether the maximum pay of the bank-note stampers in the Bank of England was 30s. per week.—Mr. JACKSON said the question must have been asked under a misapprehension. The Bank of England was not a Government department, and the Government had nothing to do with the management of its staff.

A Misleading Report.

Sir H. JAMES asked permission to make a short statement affecting himself and the rules of the House. In several newspapers, especially the Times, there appeared a statement as to the report of the Hyderabad-Deccan Committee's report. That report had not been laid on the table, and the paragraph he referred to stated in some detail the contents of that report. So far as he could judge at present the person who communicated the contents of the paragraph must have obtained a copy of the original draft of the report at a stage when it had not approached completion and was scarcely considered; but whilst he could not say when that report was likely to be read, it was his duty to mention that the statement of its contents was not only insufficient, but misleading, fallacious, and in many respects entirely erroneous. He did not think that at this stage he ought to suggest any course to follow; he had not had an opportunity of consulting his colleagues; but he was sure they would share his great regret that such a course was taken in respect to the report. The statements communicated to the public were fallacious and erroneous, and as the company's shares were largely dealt with on the Stock Exchange, if that report remained entirely uncontradicted, the result might be that the credulous and unwary might suffer.—Mr. T. H. HEALY asked if the Government would introduce into the Liberal Bill a provision to stop such practices in future.—Sir G. CAMPBELL asked if the Government would take into consideration, in connection with the Official Secrets Bill, the expediency of dealing, not only with those who communicated such information but with the receivers of stolen information.—Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN asked whether it was the habit of the Times to get information of that sort by means either of thefts or forgeries. (Laughter.)—Mr. JACKSON could not give a direct answer to the questions; but took the opportunity of saying that these occurrences had been of late so frequent that it was the duty of the Government to take into consideration what measures should be adopted with reference to them. (Hear, hear.)

Supply.—Army Estimates.

The House went into committee of supply on the Army Estimates.—Votes of £243,300 for works, buildings, &c., at home and abroad, £1,343,900 for outstanding pensions, and £720,700 for pay and allowances of Volunteer corps were agreed to.—On a vote of £252,000 for transport and remounts, Sir W. BARTLETT asked about the supply of horses for cavalry.—Mr. BRODRICK said, this year the experiment had been tried of registering the horses of private owners for 10s. a year each, and these horses were available at a moment's notice to be called out. That experiment had been entirely successful. £7,000 had been taken for that purpose in this year's estimates, and if the House would vote a larger sum next year it would be possible to increase the reserve. A large number of these horses were available for transport, and a considerable number was available for artillery and cavalry. No horses were now being brought from abroad.—After some remarks from General Fitzwigram, Mr. SIMCLAIR said there was an increasing desire in the country to see an army corps complete in all departments—cavalry, artillery, transport, and ambulance—ready to be sent anywhere on short notice should emergency arise.—Mr. BRODRICK stated that the demand was being attended to. Immense progress being made, it was the intention of the Secretary for War to put the first army corps in a position to take the field at any moment.—The vote was agreed to.—A vote of £2,500,000 for provisions, forage, and fuel, gave rise to some discussion on the soldiers' rations; and Mr. E. STANHOPE having promised attention to the subject, the vote was agreed to.

Our Naval Armaments.

On a vote of £1,863,500 for naval armaments, Lord GEORGE HAMILTON stated that they had complete information as regarded the stores of foreign stations, which were now practically complete, as was also the outfit in reserve for guns. With reference to the amount of ammunition known as the outfit for the home stations, it was complete except in relation to the quick-firing guns. In recent years the cost of naval armaments had been very largely increased, and also the ratio of the cost of guns and ammunition to the ship's hull and engines. A careful estimate had been made of the cost of providing the guns and ammunition for the vessels now in course of construction, and it was found to be at the same ratio, about 33 per cent. Therefore, as the shipping programme for the year amounted to about £2,600,000, the sum of £163,000 was necessary to make full provision for the armaments of all the ships. There was a good margin left, which it was hoped would be employed in making good existing deficiencies. The object of the department was to see that there was an ample supply of material which could not be quickly manufactured, and also of machinery for making perishable materials quickly in case of emergency.—Mr. DUFF said the supply of guns was lamentably deficient. For the Navy sixty guns of over nine inches diameter were now needed, and he believed that of the smallest estimate 100 were wanted for other purposes, so that 160 should be supplied in three years. In the last ten years the Government had turned out forty guns, and if they doubled their present rate of production it would take eight years to meet the demand. He urged that the Government should go into the open market and give an order for 30 or 40 guns.—Lord CHASSEUR thought no vote merited more discussion than this one. He concurred with the remarks of Mr. Duff, and contended that we should have a reserve of heavy ordnance. Every navy in the world had magazine rifles except our own. He admitted that with the present state of things it was manifest nonsense to expect to get more guns; and while he was opposed to enlarging Woolwich, he advocated putting the guns out to contract. We should have a council of some sort to devote itself specially to inventions, so that we could get the latest and best appliances at once. He wished to know what steps were being taken to fill snails with high explosives, to provide magazine rifles, to supply smokeless powder for rifles and machine guns, and what was being done to avoid the scandal in the future of ships being without armaments.—After some remarks from Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. E. STANHOPE replied that magazine rifles would be issued to the navy in a few days. The experiments with the high explosives had been highly satisfactory, but such had not been the case with regard to smokeless powder, yet it was hoped that before long a smokeless powder would be recommended, useful both for rifles and guns. The return showing the number of vessels without guns did certainly almost amount to a scandal. The Government had addressed themselves seriously to the subject, and had found that the first cause of delay had been that guns were not ordered simultaneously with the ship. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) That defect had now been remedied, but there had

also been delay in the proof of the guns, owing to the smallness of space at Shoeburyness. Steps, however, were now being taken to increase their accommodation at that place. (Hear, hear.) An inquiry had been made into the supply of guns generally, and the inquiry was conclusive. The Government now knew the capacity of Woolwich and Elswick, and the difficulty that arose at Woolwich owing to repairing operations. The Government did not desire to increase Woolwich, but to put the work out to increasing numbers of private firms. The Government had ordered all the guns required for the land service and the navy, or had called for tenders for the remaining ones not ordered.—Mr. HANSBY continued the discussion. The vote was agreed to; and several other votes were agreed to without discussion.—On the report of supply Mr. ANDERSON and Mr. WALLACE complained of the Government's neglect of Scotch business.—The House adjourned at 5.45.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Monday.

Local Government Bill.

The Local Government Bill was considered in committee.—Lord SALISBURY moved in clause 2, that peers, the sons of peers, and the sons of county electors should be eligible to sit on their county council, but after some discussion he limited his amendment to peers, and in this form it was agreed to.—The Earl of JAMIESON moved that the county councillors should hold office for six years, half of the council retiring every third year.—The amendment was rejected by 72 to 29.—Earl BRAUCHAMP moved an amendment cancelling that provision of the bill which required that not more than one member should be returned to the county council by an electoral division.—Lord SALISBURY opposed the amendment, saying that it was in favour of the election of carpet-baggers.—The amendment was negatived without a division.—On the fifth clause, an amendment was agreed to disqualifying a coroner from sitting on the county council.—On the ninth clause, which dealt with the control of the police, Lord CARNARVON thought the control of the police by a joint committee of the justices and the council would lead to great inconvenience, and that the control of the police should be transferred to the Imperial Government.—Lord KIMBLETT replied that that would constitute one of the most dangerous innovations that could be made in our system of Government.—Lord SALISBURY believed that the time would come when the control of the police would be handed over to the Imperial Government, but that point had not been reached yet. The clause, however, as it had left the Commons was not satisfactory, inasmuch as it transferred to the joint committee not only the powers over the police which were possessed by the justices in quarter sessions, but also those powers possessed by the justices out of sessions for the preservation of the peace.—Lord SALISBURY thought the noble lord's suggestion was a reasonable one, and he withdrew his own amendment with the view of considering the matter before the report stage.—The third sub-section of the same clause, giving the joint committee power to suspend county constables was omitted, on the motion of Lord BASING.—An amendment to the forty-second clause, moved by Lord SALISBURY, restored to the Court of Alderman of the City of London the right of appointing the recorder subject, however to the condition that he should not exercise any judicial functions unless he was appointed by her Majesty to exercise such functions. The amendment was agreed to.—The bill passed through committee at twenty minutes to two o'clock. The report was fixed for Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Monday.

The Vote on Account.

Mr. W. H. SMITH stated that the Currency Commission hoped to be able to report in the course of the next few months. It was not in his power to give a day to discuss Mr. Dillon's motion for an address praying for the release of Mr. Dillon.—Mr. DILLWIN gave notice that he would take the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter before the House.—Replying to Sir W. Lawson, Mr. SMITH said the date of the sitting of the commission in reference to the Irish members rested with the judges themselves.—The adjourned debate on the resolution for a vote on account of seven millions was resumed by Mr. WALLACE, who continued his criticisms in connection with the neglect of Scotch business at such great length, that the SPEAKER informed him that he had never, in his experience, known the rules of the House to be so abused, and that it was worthy of consideration whether it was respectful to the House to allow that sort of thing to go on.—After a few more remarks from Mr. WALLACE, the First Lord of the Treasury took upon himself the entire responsibility of the course which the Government had adopted. After the Scotch members had discussed this question for a considerable time, the Irish members attacked the policy of the Irish Executive, and continued the debate till half past twelve, when the report of the vote was agreed to without a division, as was also the report of supply voted on Saturday.—The various orders were then disposed of, the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Bill being read a third time.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Tuesday.

Work Done.

The Royal Assent was given by commission to the Glebe Lands Bill and other bills.—Lord BALFOUR of BULLEN announced that the report stage of the Local Government Bill would be taken on Thursday, and, as a general opinion had been expressed that power should be given to the county council to appoint a deputy chairman, he would propose an amendment to that effect on the report stage. He would also on Thursday ask that his lordship to read the bill a third time.—The Marriages Validation Bill was read a second time and passed through all its stages.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Tuesday.

Sir W. LAWSON gave notice that on the third reading of the Irish Commission Bill he would move that the House declines to appoint such a commission.—On the motion of Mr. W. H. SMITH, the twelve o'clock rule was suspended for the present sitting.—The Lord's amendments to the Railway and Canal Traffic Bill were, with a few alterations, agreed to.

Obstructing the Inquiry Bill.

The House proceeded with the consideration of the Irish Commission Bill as it left the committee stage.—The Home SECRETARY moved the insertion of a new clause after clause 3, providing that if any person served with a summons under this Act should fail to appear the commissioners should have power to issue a warrant for his arrest. The amendment was agreed to.—The Home SECRETARY further moved the insertion, also after clause 3, of a new clause providing that any person summoned to appear before the commissioners, and not obeying, should, notwithstanding the dissolution of the commission, be liable to punishment for contempt the motion of any person aggrieved by his failure to obey the summons.—Mr. PARSELL moved an amendment extending the penal consequences of the clause to any one who should refuse to make a full and true disclosure touching all the matters in respect of which he is examined.—Both the Home SECRETARY and Sir C. RUSSELL declared that the amendment was unnecessary, and it was withdrawn.

Mr. PARSELL next moved a further amendment which provided that any punishment of imprisonment inflicted by the commission

should not come to an end, by reason of the termination of the commission, until the High Court of Justice should so order.—The Home SECRETARY accepted the amendment, but it was withdrawn, that it might, on the third reading of the bill, be inserted after the second clause.—Mr. LABOUCHER moved a new clause providing that nothing in the act should relieve the publishers of any libel before the passing of the act from any civil or criminal liability.—The Home SECRETARY opposed the amendment, which was rejected by 191 to 120.—An amendment by Mr. HUNTER, requiring the particulars of the charges to be furnished to the commissioners, was negatived by 184 to 118.

COMMONS—Wednesday.

Obstruction to the Last.

The House then resumed consideration of the Irish Commission Bill as amended in committee.—An amendment, which was moved by Mr. BRADLAUGH, provided that the commissioners should exercise the powers given to them in the same way as the powers were exercised by a judge of the High Court in the trial of an action. It was rejected on a division by 148 to 60. A new clause was inserted in the bill, on the motion of Mr. M. HEALY, empowering the commissioners to order the attendance of prisoners at the inquiry on such conditions as they might deem fit; and a number of other amendments having been disposed of, Mr. H. SMITH moved the third reading of the bill.—Sir W. LAWSON moved as an amendment that the House declined to appoint a commission for inquiry into matters connected with political movements unless such inquiry be confined to definite charge of a criminal nature against specified individuals.—Mr. LABOUCHER said he could not support the amendment, which implied that the House was willing to appoint a commission if the charges and the individuals were specified. He would rather vote directly against the third reading of the bill.—Sir W. LAWSON withdrew his amendment.—Mr. LABOUCHER gave his reasons for opposing the third reading of the bill. It was also opposed by Mr. NAVILLE and Mr. DILLWIN.—Mr. SEXTON said he would not vote against the bill, because it might be thought that he wished to avoid inquiry, and, on the other hand, he would not vote for it because it would be thought that he was satisfied with the commission, which was wholly composed of adherents of the Government, one of whom had uttered malignant calumnies against the Irish party. He did not fear any inquiry; though the cost of defending his character might ruin him; nevertheless, he said to the enemies of himself and his colleagues, "Pass your bill, and may God defend the right."—The House divided, and the bill was read a third time by 132 to 64.

Hurrying Up.

The Metropolitan Board of Works (Money) Bill was read a second time, after some discussion. The Public Works Loans Bill and the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill were also read a second time. The Sea Fisheries Regulation Bill, as amended by the standing committee, was considered, further amended, and read a third time. The Hawkers Bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Thursday.

The Parnell Commission Bill.

Lord SALISBURY moved the first reading of the Members of Parliament Charges and Allegations Bill. He proposed that the bill should go into committee on Saturday, and, if it was not inconvenient to the Opposition, the third reading would be moved.—Lord KIMBLETT acquiesced as to the bill going into committee on Saturday, but would not pledge himself further. The bill was read a first time.

The Local Government Bill.

On the motion for receiving the report of amendments, Lord DENMAN moved that the report be received that day six months.—The motion was negatived without a division.—The report was received.—Lord FORTESCUE then moved to insert a provision in clause 2, enacting that the councillors should be elected in like manner as guardians of the poor.—The amendment was negatived.—On the motion of Lord BALFOUR, it was resolved that a county council might from time to time appoint a member of the council to be deputy chairman, who would hold that position during the term of office of the chairman, and subject to any rules made by the county council.—The bill was then read a third time.—Lord GRANVILLE complimented Lord BALFOUR on the manner in which he had carried the bill through the House. He (Lord Granville) drew attention to the statement which Lord SALISBURY had made at the Mansion House to the effect that he thought the bill would be final. If that were so it diminished his satisfaction with it.—Lord SALISBURY said he was referring to the metropolis. There would, undoubtedly, have to be additions made to the bill, as one branch of local government had not been dealt with at all. After transacting some other important business, their lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Thursday.

A Telegraph Monopoly.

Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL asked the Postmaster-general if he could now say that the monopoly of a private telegraph company across the Channel to the continent would not be renewed on its expiry.—Sir JOHN GOSKE said it would not be renewed.

The Exclusion of Chinese from New South Wales.

Sir J. GOSKE, in reply to Sir George Campbell, said that the Colonial Secretary had no reason to doubt the authenticity of a recently published pamphlet in which a speech of Sir Henry Parkes, the Premier of New South Wales, in moving the second reading of the Chinese Restriction Bill, was given, and in which he announced that the Government did not intend to turn aside until they had terminated for ever the landing of Chinese on the shores of New South Wales. The bill had passed, and it was understood to contain a clause reserving to any person who felt aggrieved by any action of the Government the right to recover damages, but indemnifying members of the Ministry. That had been done without prejudice to her Majesty's power of disallowance. The bill had not yet been received, but it would be carefully considered.

A Question as to Income-tax.

Mr. STANLEY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether income-tax was rightly charged on Schedule B as well as Schedule A to landowners for land let as allotments to cottagers.

—Mr. GOSKE said it was not the practice to do so, and if any case were reported it would be discharged on particular being given.

Soldier Colonies in Asiatic Russia.

Sir JAMES FERGUSON, in reply to Mr. Thomas PRICE, said that her Majesty's Government had no official information beyond that contained in the despatch which was laid on the table in March last regarding the measures adopted by the Russian Government in the establishing colonies of soldiers belonging to the reserve in the Asiatic provinces of Russia. He would ascertain whether any information was procurable that would be useful to the public.

The Zoological Gardens and the Regent's Canal.

Mr. ERICSON, in answer to Mr. PICTON, said that no complaints had been made to the Local Government Board as to the pollution of the Regent's Canal by the sewage from the Zoological Gardens, and no complaints had reached him that the sewage so discharged was slowly conducted through a succession of locks into the Thames at Limehouse. The medical officer stated, as the result of examination, that he had always found

the effluent water from the Zoological Gardens brighter and purer than that in the canal.

The Oaths Bill.

On the motion for the third reading of this bill, Mr. HUNTER said he could not support it because persons who had some religious belief could only escape taking an oath by saying that it was not consistent with their religious belief. Many persons to whom an oath was distasteful could not say that.—Mr. E. ROBERTSON entertained a strong objection to the bill in its present shape, that he was disposed to vote against it. It was now a stigmatizing instead of a relieving bill.—After some discussion, Mr. DE LIMA moved the rejection of the bill. He said it was deplorable that such a bill should pass into law under a Conservative and Unionist Government.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL hoped the House would be wiser than the extremists on either side, and accept a bill which would be substantial amendment to the existing law.—Colonel SANDY would not vote for the third reading of the bill on the ground that it would be unjust both to his constituents and to the Christian interests of the country.—After some remarks from Mr. Sinclair, Mr. DARLING contended that the House was only extending a form of affirmation which was customary in every court of law at the present time.—The motion for the third reading of the bill was carried by 147 against 60.

The Indian Budget.

Sir J. GOSKE said the net revenue of East India was estimated at 46,654,400 tons of rupees; and the expenditure at 46,004,410 tons of rupees; for 1887-8 the deficit was 1,950,800 tons of rupees; and for the coming year the deficit was 1,540,000. That was a great deal more than was estimated in India in March last, when it was put at 600,000. This difference had been chiefly caused by the fall in the Exchange, the total loss being 1,02,000 tons of rupees. In the coming year the total charge on the revenue of India, in consequence of the fall in the exchange, was 7,122,000 tons of rupees. Every fall of a farthing in the exchange now meant an additional charge of 33,140 tons of rupees upon the finances of India.—Mr. BRADLAUGH called attention to certain grievances of the natives of India.—Mr. J. MCLEAN and Sir ROPER LUTHERSON continued the discussion.—Sir W. PLOWDEN moved a resolution affirming that the economies recommended by the Army Commission should be enforced.—Sir K. TEMPLE attributed the fall in the value of the rupee to the over-production of silver. With regard to the condition of the people of India, he stated that there were no unemployed in India; and there never had been and never would be any poor-law in India, because there was no need for it.—In the end the resolution of Sir W. PLOWDEN was rejected, and the usual Indian budget resolutions agreed to.

A PUGILIST IN TROUBLE.

Albert John BRADLEY, 23, of Horse Shoe Cottage, Montague-road, Leytonstone, a decorator, was charged at Stratford Petty Sessions with rescuing a prisoner from the lawful custody of Constable EWSON, 149 J, and further with assaulting Constable EWSON and Constable LEWIS, 102 J.—The evidence of the police was to the effect that at about half past ten o'clock on Sunday night Constable EWSON, whilst on duty in the Leytonstone-road, near the Halfway House, saw a number of men creating a disturbance. He asked them to desist, but they refused. After this one of them commenced to fight with a woman, and when EWSON arrested that man the prisoner interfered and thrusting EWSON against the wall he succeeded in releasing the prisoner, who got away. The other men gathered round the officer, who was several times knocked down, and when Constable LEWIS came up he arrested Bradley. Lewis was also hit and knocked down, and when he got the prisoner to the station, Bradley, whilst in the dock, threw his hat at the officer, who described him as a professional pugilist—a man who got a living by the use of his fists.—In cross-examination, Lewis admitted that he used a piece of cord to tie the man's hands together, as he was so violent, and it was possible that the cord grazed the skin off the wrists, a prisoner was very violent.—Colonel BIRT (the chairman) said it was admitted that prisoner was the worst for liquor, and that he did aid in releasing the prisoner. He was very violent, and there could be no doubt of the assault. A fine of 40s. and costs would be imposed. Colonel BIRT added that the second constable was quite right in apprehending the prisoner as the complaint of his brother officer.

ALLEGED MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaks with authority; and it should on that account be particularly pleasing to the public to know that he gives unfeigned testimony to the high business capacity of the present House—in the matter of financial affairs—as compared with some of its predecessors. Moreover, in Mr. GOSCHEN's opinion, the present House is one which is more in touch with the constituencies than "any other we have known," and is most anxious, when not thrown off its balance by disturbing topics to do its duty to the people whom it represents. All these remarks of Mr. GOSCHEN will be welcome to the public, who are too much accustomed to look upon the other side of the picture, which certainly does not portray our legislators too favourably, though the severity is just as far as it goes. We ourselves hope (and Mr. GOSCHEN says he knows) that the day will soon come when we shall "no longer have to use the language of apology or extenuation;" when, as of old, the nation will be wholly proud of the assembly of the national representatives. But, with all respect to Mr. GOSCHEN, that time has not come yet.

The Members of Parliament (Charges and Allegations) Bill was read a third time in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The Parliament members left the House in a body, and the leading English Separatists did not vote against the bill. The House of Commons is to be congratulated upon the third reading, which, but for the efforts made by the Opposition to defeat the measure, would have taken place long ago. Mr. Parnell and his followers, Irish and English, have, however, made up their minds that the finding of the Special Commission shall have no weight with them, unless it happens to suit them. By walking out of the House on the occasion of the division on Wednesday, they intended to prepare themselves for whatever the future may bring forth. On the one hand, by not voting in favour of the bill, they enable themselves to say that they never agreed to accept its terms or to abide by the judgment of the Commission. On the other hand, by not voting against the bill they leave themselves free to say (to anybody who likes to believe them) that they have never shirked a full inquiry. This last stroke is worthy of their behaviour towards the bill ever since its first appearance.

The strike of navvies and other working men in Paris and in Amiens, which has now been going on for some time, is a subject which cannot fail to have considerable interest for our English working classes. Observers of the situation in France will at once be struck by one great difference between this sort of crisis in that country and in our own—that is, the absence of combination, organisation, and of guaranteed pecuniary support among the French working men. Englishmen in similar circumstances are banded together, organised, and able to sustain themselves. The French are unable to arrange any concerted plan of action, are reduced to smashing shop windows at intervals (which is their only plan of operations), and are threatened with collapse through lack of funds. Indeed, were they not supplied with money by revolutionary agitators for political purposes, the movement would probably have collapsed before this. It may be expected to do so as soon as ever the outside supporters fail to supply the sinews of war.

THE DIVORCE COURT.

BATLEY v. BATLEY.—The petition was that of the wife for a divorce by reason of the desertion and bigamy of her husband. There was no defence. Mr. A. B. Kelly appeared for the petitioner, who married the respondent in 1878 at Sittingbourne. In 1883 the respondent went to America. The petitioner followed him there, they living together until April, 1886, when he told her that he intended to leave her. Last May he was charged at Philadelphia with having committed bigamy, the wife being present at the first examination, but at the trial at the criminal court of that country she was absent. There was the documentary evidence that he was convicted for that offence—but although the learned judge allowed it to be put in, he said he would consider the matter. His lordship now stated that he would allow the evidence to be given by way of affidavit, in which the story might be told completely.—Mr. Kelly: As your lordship pleases.

DUNN v. DUNN AND WALL.—The petition, it will be remembered, was that of Mr. Richard Dunn, a betting man, for a divorce by reason of his wife's adultery with the co-respondent, Mr. Harry Wall, jun. On behalf of the petitioner, formal application was now made and acceded to, to make the decree absolute, thus finally dissolving the marriage.

SLAVE SALES IN MOROCCO.

The Times of Morocco reports that although the public sale of slaves is supposed to be a thing of the past in the coast towns of Morocco, the occasional reports which reach Tangier of sales in the open streets show that this is not the case. A Mocador correspondent says:—"This week a man arrived from Wadimoun, bringing with him four slaves, of whom he kept one in his house as a servant, and sent three of them, about 15 years old, to be sold. They were conducted through the streets by a public crier, who offered them for sale for 50, 55, and 70 dollars respectively. I was present when a buyer of human beings was examining the teeth of one of them in the same way as they do the donkeys, refusing to buy because she had not white teeth, but she was afterwards bought by the Kadi. The other two are still for sale in our streets."

GREAT STORM IN NEW YORK.

A thunderstorm of most unusual proportions has visited New York. The Paris edition of the New York Herald says those who had lived in the tropics were not alarmed, but great numbers were. Indeed consternation is the word best describing the general feeling. Thicker than sheets of water over cataracts, the air seemed permeated with white fire-balls, the thunder was appalling, the lightning blinding, while the streets became impassable, and chimneys, awnings, boardings, and exposed glass frames were more or less in a wrecked condition. The circuits of the Postal or Western Union Telegraph services were broken, and all the cables were unable under the electric interferences of the atmosphere to begin their work for several hours. The Electric Light Depot in West Twenty-ninth-street, which furnished street, hotel, and theatre lights in the section comprising Madison and Union Squares and vicinity, were put out, and the general consternation increased. Much damage to property is being reported, and doubtless some accounts of loss of life may be expected. The lightning is reported to have set on fire one of the Long Island scrub forests.

TERrible RAILWAY COLLISION NEAR KINGSTON.

Four Persons Killed and Many Injured.

A railway accident of a disastrous nature happened early on Tuesday morning at Hampton Wick Station, on the London and South Western Line. The immediate consequences were, unhappily, the death of four persons and the serious injury of several more. Traffic on this portion of the line was, owing to the bank holiday, exceptionally heavy, but it had been conducted all day with perfect safety, and the accident occurred, not to any of the excursion trains, but to one of the ordinary trains, which was travelling with a large complement of passengers returning to Kingston from various stations between there and Waterloo. It appears that the pointsman on duty at Kings Junction signal-box, whose name is Thomas Parsons, having to get away a light engine and a train of empties to the stations where they would be required in the morning, switched them by some mischance on to the down instead of the up line. The mistake was not discovered until it was too late to avert the calamity which ensued, and, strangely enough, the driver of the light engine himself did not notice that he was on the wrong line until he rounded the curve between Hampton Wick and Kingston, and until he had gained the bridge upon which the collision occurred. Two of the carriages of the passenger train were completely telescoped, one of these being the guard's van, and the other a third-class carriage, in which several of the people killed and injured were travelling. Fortunately, the sides of the bridge withstood the shock, or at least two or three of the carriages must have been precipitated into the Upper Teddington-road, with results still more disastrous than those which have, as it is, to be lamented.

The Dead and Injured.

The noise of the collision immediately attracted the attention of the porters at Hampton Wick and Kingston, and messengers were at once despatched in search of medical aid. Assisted by a number of residents who appeared upon the scene, the officials at once began the work of extricating the dead and injured from the wreck. The fireman of the passenger engine, James Jenby, was taken out dead, and the driver, William Pace, had sustained injuries of so serious a character that he died two hours later at the Rose and Crown public-house, whether he and other sufferers were conveyed. Mrs. Mindenhall, the wife of a provision dealer at South Teddington, was killed on the spot, her skull being fractured in a ghastly manner, and Mrs. Figg, Rose Cottage, Franklin-road, Norbiton, was also killed. The injured were Mrs. Sadler, wife of an ex-champion sculler on the Thames, who was removed to her own home and was at first reported to have died. Walter Mumford, Elm-terrace, Elm-road, Kingston, whose left leg was fractured; Gertrude and Mary Hay, sisters, slightly injured about the face; George Peck, Hudson-road, Kingston, both legs and skull fractured; Mrs. Charlotte Gill, Henry's Cottage, Fairfield, Kingston, injured in the spine; Mr. and Miss Gill, son and daughter of Mrs. Gill, cut about the face; and James Swaine, 7, Bed Lion-street, Richmond, who was, however, not so severely hurt as to prevent him from walking home.

The Pointsman Admits His Mistake.

The pointsman, Parsons, to whose mistake the accident was due, is a man of 41 years of age, who lives in a cottage near the station, and has occupied his position in the signal-box at Kingston Junction for about seven years. When asked to account for his blunder, he simply had to confess that it was a blunder, and, practically, that it was inexplicable. In his own words, "It was a very busy time. I thought the driver of the light engine was going to the engine shed, having done for the day. I therefore fixed the points for another train from Waterloo. But instead of the driver going to the engine shed he shouted up to me, saying, 'I have got to go to Twickenham.' All right, I replied. 'Look sharp!' I quite forgot for the moment that the points were wrong. Of course, he ought to have noticed that he was going up the down line, and should have stopped." Parsons, according to his own story, was perfectly sober, and had had ample rest before going to his work. When asked if he saw the accident he said, "It was dark, and it occurred round the corner, the other side of Hampton Wick Station. I heard the crash—indeed, I was listening for it. I knew the engine was on the wrong line; but I found it out too late to stop her. Some railway men came down and told me of the accident. I had to stop in the box till 3.30. One of my mates remained there to keep me company."

A Passenger's Narrative.

Mr. Mindenhall, who was in the front carriage of the train, says:—"I had been down to Cobham to spend the day with some relations, and was returning in company with my wife, two little children, and two nieces named Holloway. We all sat on one seat with our backs to the engine. My wife had been nursing one of the little girls, but just before we got to the station the child got down, taking to be allowed to stand on the seat. Had she not done so she would almost certainly have met the same fate as my wife. All was going well, when, just as our part of the train was entering the station, I heard the sharp, shrill whistle blowing, and I then knew something was wrong. Little girl, at the same time remarked, 'The train is coming, papa.' The next thing was the collision. The front of the carriage was forced in upon us, the lights were extinguished, and I could not move hand or foot. We screamed, and the sensation was awful. Presently I heard the rescue party running over the top of the carriage, but we must have remained helpless for nearly half an hour. It was like dying by inches. At last some people got us. They first took out the children, and then my wife, who was dead. I was quite helpless, and felt sure I had lost my left arm. I put my right hand over to my left side, and I then felt my arm was there. My legs were amongst the splintered timber, and my back was very painful. I was lifted out and taken into one of the rooms, where I was laid on the floor and attended to.

What the Constable Saw.

Police-constable Marshall, who was one of the first to arrive on the scene of the accident, says:

"My attention was directed to the station by a tremendous crash. I thought it was the bridge over the road that had given way. Hearing screams for help, I ran along the platform before the people got out of the train. I opened some of the doors, and the people ran away in all directions as fast as they could. I then rushed to the carriage that was telescoped and began to open the doors. I saw a man and woman with some children screaming, and helped to get them out as soon as possible. Police-constables Philo and Adams also helped. The woman, I found, was Mrs. Mindenhall, and she was quite dead when I took her out. I recognised her and her husband, Mrs. Figg, who was also killed, was taken to Mr. Usher's, Palmerstone Villas, just near the station, where Dr. Gunther was attending the patients. The dead were then brought to the Rose and Crown. When Pace, the driver of the passenger engine, was taken to the Rose and Crown public-house he was in a terrible state, but he lived for quite an hour, thoroughly conscious, although suffering the most horrible agony. His mother and father were present there, and the scene was heartrending. He was asking frequently for his wife and to be taken home. His wife was not able to reach him before he died. The fireman of the passenger train, who was killed instantly, was completely dashed up. Another police-constable, who searched the body of the last-mentioned deceased, said that so great had been the force of the collision that a penny in the dead man's pocket was bent in a surprising manner, and his pocket-knife blade, although closed, was broken off.

Official Report.

The following is the official report supplied from Kingston-on-Thames to Mr. Scorer, the general manager of the South-Western Railway:—"I

regret to inform you that a serious collision occurred at the Teddington end of the Hampton Wick Station at about midnight on Monday night, which has resulted in the death of the driver and stoker of the 10.50 p.m. down train, and also the death of two passengers, namely, respectively Mrs. Mindenhall and Mrs. Figg; about eight others being more or less seriously injured. The signalman on duty in the Kingston Junction at the time allowed the driver of a light engine to proceed towards Twickenham on the wrong line, and by some remarkable oversight the driver of this light engine proceeded as far as Hampton Wick Station without discovering the fatal mistake that had been made, and then dashed into the 10.50 p.m. down passenger train as it was entering that station. All medical assistance was sent as soon as possible, and the breakdown gang set to work, the remainder of the traffic being worked through on the up line, which was not blocked. The two engines were disabled, the guard's van and a third-class carriage, which formed the two foremost vehicles of the passenger train being telescoped. The signalman was an experienced man, perfectly sober, but overwhelmed with grief when he found what a terrible mistake he had made."

Interview with the Injured Engine-driver.

Daniel Pickles, who resides at 5, Railway-terrace, Canbury Park-road, Kingston, was interviewed by a reporter on Wednesday morning. He was found lying in bed. On his right cheek was a terrible gash, while his head was much swollen; on his right hand was what Pickles himself called "a very ugly hurt." Having placed his injured hand to his brow, Pickles thus related, somewhat incoherently at first, what he characterised as "his life or death struggle on the engine."

"It was a very dark night. Just as I was entering the station I saw the train. 'Good God!' I said to my mate, 'we are on the wrong road.' We did all we could to stop the engine. I reversed her, and my mate—well, he acted without a moment's hesitation, and tugged at the brake. We then knew it was life or death. We hadn't time to say another word, but looked at each other. I don't know what he did then, but (pausing), and half rising on his bed) I held my breath. Crash! I didn't feel anything else for some time. A piece of iron from the other engine struck me full in the face, as you see; another piece hit me on the chest, and I was driven backwards with tremendous force from the lever, which I had hold of at the time. We had had no time to whistle. I solemnly assure you, sir, we did all we could, and my mate tugged at the brake in a way such as I never saw a fireman do before. I am now telling you this straight. Ah! but I haven't told you I was struck on the mouth. Well, I had the regulator in my left hand and the lever in the other. My engine was a 'boycy'; if it had been a smaller one, it would have been worse for us.

How He Got on the Wrong Road.

"When I got on the road was in this way. There was a verbal signal from the box (which, by the way, is half a mile from Hampton Wick Station). 'Eight away!' said Parsons, the signalman, as my engine was just under his box, and I proceeded, but not at fast rate. When I started I could not see the road, it was so dark; but I trusted to the signalman's 'Eight away!' Parsons says he was overworked. That is not so. It was the ordinary holiday traffic. He had a train to attend to on the high level at the time. I sailed on, and had the warning of this train from the box ahead. He evidently made a mistake with the points, and thus shut us in. I am quite sure Parsons was in the signal-box when he gave the 'Eight away,' as our engine was just under. I did not see him have any lamp. The train that ran into us was due at Hampton Wick at a quarter to twelve; I think it got there at five minutes to twelve. It was a dreadful crash for us, but the back part of the train was not hurt at all, and some of the passengers were actually found asleep in the hind carriages after the collision. When I was on the line I assisted to get my fireman up—he is David Alexander, and not Gimman, as my wife tells me—is reported—and then a gentleman with a bottle of brandy, seeing me covered with blood, said, 'Here, old fellow, you had better have a drink of this.' I must have lost a quart of blood. Parsons, the signalman, was as sober as a judge, that I can vouch for. I have been a driver about six or seven years. When I could see through the streams of blood which came down my face I saw poor Facey's mate. It was an awful sight—his body was so much mutilated. The doctor tells me I mustn't get up, but I feel now as if I could go to work in a week's time. The driver concluded his story by expressing a hope that Parsons, whom he had known for a long time, would "pull through."

The Inquest.

Dr. Diplock on Thursday opened an inquiry at Hampton Wick into the circumstances attending the death of four persons by the railway accident which occurred there on Monday night last. The coroner intimated that the evidence would be of a formal nature, and that the inquiry would be adjourned for a fortnight. Prior to the jury being sworn several complained of the short notice given them, and decided to make a representation to the county authorities. The viewing of the bodies occupied a considerable time. John Cullimore, a signalman at Hampton Wick Station, said he received a telegram from Parsons, the signalman between Kingston and Hampton Wick, saying that a light engine was coming along. He saw the engine and fancied it was too far out to be in its right road, which was the up line. Unless Parsons signalled danger immediately, the witness could not have acted on it, the distance being so short. He would have to move four levers to stop the advancing train and engine. The engine appeared to be travelling at the rate of 50 miles an hour when passing the witness's box. Parsons, the signalman at Kingston, deposed, after being cautioned by the coroner, that, after the engine had come from Twickenham the stoker told the witness he must return. The witness told the driver to start, which he did, and fifteen seconds afterwards the witness discovered that the engine was on the wrong line, he having forgotten to alter the points. The inquiry was afterwards adjourned.

Board of Trade Inquiry—New and Important Evidence.

Major Marindin, on Friday, opened an inquiry on behalf of the Board of Trade at Waterloo Station into the circumstances attending the accident which occurred at Hampton Wick at midnight on bank holiday, and which resulted in the loss of four lives and injuries to several persons. There were present Mr. Scorer, general manager of the South-Western Railway, Mr. Verinder, Mr. Andrews (chief engineer), and Mr. Adams (locomotive superintendent); while Mr. Hazeldine, solicitor, appeared for an injured passenger. The first witness called was Thomas Parsons, signalman at the Kingston Junction box, who said he had been a signalman for seven years. There were thirty-nine levers in the box. The witness worked nine and a half hours at a time, and during the day they had a boy to book the trains. He had not brought his book with him. The block system was in use on both the up and the down lines. There were no special regulations in regard to his signal-box, which was worked according to the ordinary rules. The witness then went on to explain that an engine brought an empty train from Teddington. Witness shunted it, after which he put the points right for the engine to go into the shed for the night, as usual; but when the engine was passing his box the stoker said they had to go to Twickenham. Witness told him to be quick away, as another train was waiting to go behind him.—How soon after he had gone did you discover that the engine was on the wrong line? I should say about fifteen seconds. It had gone as far as the bridge over the Thames.—By Major Marindin: He signalled the engine to

first duty in the case of a train or engine being on the wrong line was to give six beats on the bell, and he did so on this occasion, and the signal was acknowledged from Hampton Wick. That was what was called a "special danger signal." Before giving the signal he had his semaphores at danger. His next duty would have been to give two beats of ten seconds each, but he did not time on this particular occasion. He heard the collision about ten seconds after the engine had left the bridge. After he had discovered his mistake he did not know what to do for a second. When he signalled the engine to Hampton Wick the signal was answered.—Major Marindin: Then that completes your story, and you have given it in an honest and straightforward manner.—In reply to Mr. Hazeldine, the witness stated that he did not make a report of the matter in writing. It would take ten or eleven seconds to make the special danger signal.

The Signalman at Hampton Wick.

John Cullimore, signalman at Hampton Wick, said he had been in the service of the company twenty-two years—nineteen as signalman. He had the control of eight levers, and had to book all his trains. He came on duty on Monday at 3.0 p.m. to work ten hours. He remembered clearing the up line to Hampton Wick at 11.45 p.m. It was 11.54 when he received warning of the approach of the light engine for Hampton Wick, and a minute later he received the signal that the engine had started. At the same moment he lowered the stop signal to allow the 11.40 train from Waterloo to enter the station from Teddington. He noticed that the light engine passed his cabin at a very fast pace. He should say at fifty miles an hour at least. He could not see that it was on the wrong line, although he had a faint idea that it was when it was crossing the bridge at Hampton. Just as the passenger train was approaching the station the engine from Hampton passed his box and the collision immediately followed.—By Mr. Scorer: He had never tried, or had occasion to use, the "special danger signal." It was a comparatively new signal, not having been used many years.—Mr. Hazeldine asked the witness whether the signals when lowered should not show a red light at the rear?—Major Marindin: If the driver had known he was on the wrong line he would naturally have stopped; but as he thought he was on his right line he looked out for the "up" signals, which were off.—The witness, in reply to a question put by Mr. Hazeldine, said there was no limit of speed at Hampton Wick, but as a rule engine-drivers did not travel at such a pace as this light engine did.—Mr. Verinder: It is a good running line there, and practically straight. There is no reason why an engine should not go at fifty miles an hour.—Mr. Scorer: We went at more than fifty miles an hour this morning.

Evidence of the Fireman.

W. Alexander, the fireman of the light engine, after being cautioned by the president, elected to give evidence. He had, he said, been eight years in the company's service. He knew the line and signals well. On the night in question he was working on tank engine No. 484 with Pickles. He came on duty at 2.5 p.m. at Kingston shed, and was engaged during the afternoon working passenger traffic between Richmond and Ludgate-Hill. At 11.30 they left Twickenham with an empty train for Kingston, having received instructions to return to Twickenham to take the Kingston portion of the twelve o'clock train from Waterloo to Windsor. (Major Marindin here read to the witness the evidence given by Parsons, the Kingston signalman, which Alexander said, was quite correct.) He fully believed that the signalman was under the impression that they were going into the yard as usual. When their engine was under the signal-box window the witness said to Parsons, "Tommy, we have to go back to Twickenham to fetch the twelve o'clock; the other engine is going through to Waterloo." Parsons said, "Oh, I did not know that." The witness's mate said, "All right, lad!" and Parsons replied, "All right, look sharp, we have a train waiting to follow you. If you do not look sharp, you will get behind a train of empties." The witness changed his lamps and they started, funnel first, for Hampton Wick. He was looking over the left-hand side of the engine and saw that the signals were fairly off. When they got off the Thames bridge the witness told his mate that he believed they were on the wrong line. Pickles said, "Good God, I think we are!" at the same time reversing the engine, while witness applied the steam brake. The rails were very greasy. When they passed the signal-box their speed did not exceed ten miles an hour. At no time had their speed exceeded fifteen or twenty miles an hour. Both he and his mate stuck to their posts when the collision occurred.—The inquiry was adjourned.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS AND THE SUGAR BOUNTIES.

The National Association of Agricultural Labourers, of which Mr. Joseph Arch is president, having forwarded to Baron Henry de Worms, M.P., a resolution in support of the action of the Government relative to the abolition of the sugar bounties, the latter has replied as follows from Paris:—"From many other branches of industry I have received similar resolutions deprecating the bounties and prescribing an effective safeguard against their continuance. But it is to me a source of peculiar pleasure to welcome and acknowledge the motion adopted by the agricultural labourers, and to know that their great power and influence are directed towards the removal of the injustice and anomalies which the bounty system involves. In one important and, indeed, melancholy respect the position of the

THE THEATRES.

LYCEUM.

The more than ordinary interest aroused by the appearance of Mr. Richard Mansfield in the dramatization of Mr. R. L. Stevenson's weird story of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," may be ascribed to the generally-solicitous credential given by way of introduction to his theatre to the British-born American actor by Mr. Irving in his parting speech on the closing night of his own season. For assuredly there was nothing in the piece itself, as presented for the first time on Saturday to a respectively attentive audience of well-wishers, to command it to their sympathies. The morbidly unnatural story, monotonous in its hideous development, failed to interest the majority of those present, after the curiosity had been appeased by the visual metamorphosis of the good but decidedly depressing Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde. As persons who propose to see the play will probably have read the book, a detailed description of its action would be superfluous. Suffice it, that in the acted version—which, by the way, introduces a love interest not found in Mr. Stevenson's work—Dr. Jekyll after deplored to his innocent fiancee, Miss Agnes Carew, that his soul is burdened with a secret too dire and dreadful to allow of its revelation to herself, leaves her after making this uncomfortable communication, to return immediately transformed into the gibbering monster of malignity, Mr. Hyde, who at once proceeds to indulge his horrid lust for murder by strangling the lady's father, an inoffensive old officer, named General Carew. The second and revolting form of this ghastly dual identity in one and the same individual is caused by the administration to himself of a subtle drug, which, were it not thus described as a mineral, might, judged by its effects, be either the hell-broth of Macbeth's witches or the other base mentioned by him—"the poisonous root which takes the reason prisoner." The murder committed, the rest of the play consists in a dramatic seesaw between the dual identities. First, the worthy Dr. Jekyll is uppermost delivering speeches alternating between poignant remorse and dread of detection for the crime committed by his other self; then that abhorred interval half of him known as Mr. Hyde gets the ascendancy, vomiting spleenetic hate first at his landlady—a melodramatic scarecrow almost as repulsive as himself—and at the much enduring friend of his better-half, Jekyll, Dr. Lanyon. Ultimately when friend and sweetheart are both reduced to wretchedness—a condition shared in no slight degree by the audience—the demon "dies" felled by poison at the critical moment of the disaster that Jekyll is Hyde and vice versa—and, by the way in "Vice Versa," the story of that name, is found the perfect analogue of Jekyll and Hyde, but happily treated from the ludicrous instead of the hideous standpoint. Such interest as is found in the piece is wholly focused upon the dual personality as presented with vivid vehemence by Mr. Mansfield. But it is a question whether in the strained expression of such nervous tension and emotional violence it was necessary to import an actor from America; half-a-dozen players on the English stage would have proved quite equal to the part as played by Mr. Mansfield. At the conclusion of his extraordinary tour de force, he thanked the audience for the by no means hearty or even unanimous applause they gave to the performance.

GAIETY.

"Marina," Mr. Coleman's dramatized version of the so-called original story, entitled "Mr. Barnes of New York," produced at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday night, is in some respects commendable, but it lacks compactness. To those who have read the original story or stories of vendetta on which Mr. Gunter has so cleverly improved, this will be noticeable in the first and third acts. In all other respects the play is interesting. The cast is all that could be desired, so far as the chief characters are concerned, Miss Sophie Eyre giving a powerful and impressive interpretation of the vengeful yet loving Corsican. Miss Lucy Buckstone's rendering of the part of Miss Anstruther was charming; while the acting of Misses C. Leclercq, E. Leslie, Messrs. F. Terry, J. East, E. D. Ward, G. Wyman, and J. Cross was commendable. Mr. H. Waring's interpretation of the character of Mr. Barnes was highly creditable. The piece met with a favourable reception.

OPERA COMIQUE.

After supper, full of horrors, upon the Hyde and Jekyll garbage at the Lyceum on Saturday, it raised one's gorge to batton upon the same repast, more coarsely served, on Monday, at the Opera Comique, where Mr. Bandmann, after long absence from the London stage, re-introduced himself to the audience in his own version of the man and the monster in dual identity. The result cannot be described as disappointing, inasmuch as it proved to be disagreeable. There was, however, this marked distinction between Mr. Mansfield's dual interpretation and those of his decidedly inferior rival, that whereas the former sharply differentiated the higher self from the lower, the latter presented a Jekyll quite as repulsive as his Hyde, whose clumsy assumption of matted hair and tufts for teeth rendered the part so much more ludicrous than frightful that the audience tittered where they should have been entranced. Following the Lyceum dramatization of the novel in its action, and notably where this most departs from Mr. Stevenson's book—without, however, for obvious reasons plagiarising a single sentence of the dialogue—Mr. Bandmann's version also introduces a love interest; but how the vicar's daughter could have the execrably bad taste to bestow her affection upon such a gross, fat, ugly man as Jekyll, passes understanding. It is the affection of Titania for Bottom over again, but very literally indeed without the charm which causes it. At the conclusion of his distasteful performance, Mr. Bandmann made a speech thanking the sparse audience for the reception accorded to him; but had the speaker but known the impression left upon the minds of the majority by his performance, he peradventure would have held his peace, or have spoken it in language expressive of anything but gratitude.

The 150th performance of "Sweet Lavender" will be given at Terry's Theatre on Tuesday. The piece is to be produced at the New York Lyceum in September.—The past season has been but a poor one for managers in London; and no better in Paris, where the receipts of theatres are periodically published. For the year 1887-8, ending on March 1st, the Parisian returns show a falling off of no less than £71,000, as against the previous twelve months.—The death is announced from America of Mr. William Davidge, formerly a well-known melodramatic actor of the Surrey and East-end theatres, who emigrated to the United States in 1850.—Mr. Lionel Brough will shortly appear in the new travesty by Mr. George Grossmith, upon "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," entitled "Hide and Seeky!"—Miss Alma Murray is about to undertake the responsibility of management in London, but at which theatre is not yet indicated. Her opening play will be an adaptation of a novel by Mr. W. Black.—Mr. Gascoigne's list of revivals at the Marylebone Theatre include "The World," "Youth," "Shadows of a Great City," and "New Babylon."—Mr. W. Calder's company will appear at the Surrey Theatre on Monday in "Shadows of a Great City."—During the month of July twenty-eight new plays were produced in London, and nine in the provinces. There were none produced in Paris during the same period.

THE OUTLYING THEATRES.

Nothing original was produced at the outlying theatres on Monday. At the Surrey, "It's Never

"Too Late to Mend" was revived, and capably acted by the members of the regular company. At the Marylebone Theatre, "Siberia" was revived, and was exceedingly well mounted by Mr. Gascoigne, who with his wife acted the two chief characters, their individual renderings being powerful and interesting. At the Elephant and Castle, the popular drama, "Queen's Evidence," was revived, the mounting and cast being all that could be desired. All the three theatres named were well attended. Revivals of popular plays were also given at the Britannia, Sadler's Wells, and the Pavilion.

THE MOHAWK MINSTRELS.

This popular troupe took up their old quarters, after a successful short provincial tour, on Monday, and met with a hearty welcome from their North London patrons. In the first part of the entertainment some new songs and choruses were capably rendered by the members of the troupe, encores being demanded. Mr. J. Schofield, a new comer, met with a favourable reception. A new musical sketch, entitled, "Troubles at the Picnic," is a diverting item, and another, of a more burlesque kind, called, "Unexpected Impressions," evoked hearty laughter. Taken altogether, the programme of entertainment is all that could be desired.

THE MUSIC HALLS.

The weather of Monday favoured the music halls, consequently unusually numerous audiences attended the capital entertainments provided at the Alhambra, the Empire, the Canterbury, the London Pavilion, the Royal, the Trocadero, the Oxford, Paragon, the Middlesex, the Cambridge, Collins's, the Foresters', the Standard, the Trevor, the Bedford, and the Star, the proprietors and managers having secured all the novelties procurable for the delectation of their patrons. The popularity of variety entertainments during holiday time is evidently on the increase.

THE ALLEGED STARVATION OF A CHILD.

Dr. George Danford Thomas, the coroner for Central Middlesex, this week concluded the inquiry at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn-road, into the circumstances attending the death of Alice Mary Bowden, aged 2 years and 2 months, whose death was alleged to have resulted from starvation and neglect on the part of its parents, Joseph Bowden, a fish-hawker, and his wife, Annie Elizabeth Bowden, who are in custody, under remand from the Clerkenwell Police Court, charged on suspicion of having caused the death of the deceased by neglect. Some evidence which corroborated previous witnesses having been given, Rosina Bonville, living at 47, Clerkenwell-road, stated that on Wednesday, the 25th ult., she saw Mrs. Bowden with the child in her arms, and then she told her that the baby was not well. She took the child from the mother's arms, after which the mother struck it with her fist on the nose, causing it to cry, after which she swore at it. The mother told her that she had given the child a tea-tasting-powder, and that it would be dead the next morning.—By the Coroner: She saw the mother strike the deceased on the face three times.—The coroner having summed up at considerable length, the jury, after some consideration in private, returned the following verdict:—That the deceased died from general exhaustion following non-assimilation of food. The jurors are of opinion that, whilst the child has been more or less neglected from birth, there is not sufficient evidence to prove that during three days prior to its death, while it was in the care of its mother, the said death was caused or accelerated by the treatment received.

RAILWAY FATALITIES.

A meeting of the hairdressers and waiters was held at the labour exchange. On leaving, at half past three o'clock, about 1,000 of these men proceeded to the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré, where the band broke into two divisions. One went on, the other stopped before the Café Danemark to intimidate the waiters there. They did not succeed, and after breaking the windows of the cafe they marched on to join their companions, with whom they proceeded to the registry-office for hairdressers in the Rue Thérèse. They were preparing to break into it when 100 policemen came up. There was a fight, which lasted a quarter of an hour, and terminated in favour of the police, who took five persons into custody. No one was seriously injured. It is suspected that all these simultaneous strikes in Paris and the provinces have the same instigators and paymasters as the Boulangist agitation.

STRIKE RIOTS IN FRANCE.

A Factory Sacked and Fired.

At Amiens on Monday evening serious disturbances occurred in connection with a strike of workmen in that town. Crowds assembled in the Rue St. Lou and made an attack upon the weaving establishment of M. Cocquel. The mounted gendarmes therupon advanced, but the strikers threw bundles of velvet and other materials, which they had taken from the warehouse in front of the house, thus barring their progress. In a few minutes the premises of M. Cocquel were completely sacked by the mob, and flames were suddenly seen to rise from the factory. The fire brigade was soon on the scene, but was prevented from doing anything to check the progress of the fire by the rioters, who proceeded to pull up the street seats, and smash the lamps. At length a body of mounted chasseurs arrived, and charged the mob with drawn swords. The gendarmes also charged the people in spite of the showers of stones with which they were assailed. A number of the horses were wounded. A force of police afterwards arrived on the scene, followed by a detachment of infantry, and at half past nine the street was cleared and the fire extinguished. The streets in the vicinity of the disturbance are now occupied by troops, and great excitement prevails. Seven individuals, four of whom are foreigners, were arrested. The mayor promulgated the law of 1884, dealing with riotous gatherings.

Further Disturbances.

The mayor of Amiens has issued a proclamation calling upon all peacefully disposed persons to keep away from any assemblages, and has promulgated the law of 1884 dealing with riotous gatherings. Every precaution was taken by the authorities to prevent further rioting. The factories and the town hall were guarded by troops, and detachments patrolled the streets. Shortly after seven o'clock on Tuesday evening a crowd commenced to collect in the Place Gambetta, and consequently about an hour later the police, supported by a number of troops, acting upon an order of the mayor, cleared the whole of the streets in the vicinity and stopped the traffic. The crowd hissed and hooted the police, who were also pelted with stones; but in spite of this opposition the streets were soon cleared. A band of rioters endeavoured to enter the Rue Debray, which is situated in the private house of M. Cocquel, the owner of the weaving establishment burnt down on Monday, but they were dispersed by the chasseurs. Extensive measures have been taken for the maintenance of order, and in spite of a certain agitation among the people, it is hoped that quiet has now definitely been restored. A letter from the Syndicat Chamber of Weavers repudiates all responsibility for the disturbances.

Riotous Hairdressers and Waiters.

A meeting of the hairdressers and waiters was held at the labour exchange. On leaving, at half past three o'clock, about 1,000 of these men proceeded to the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré, where the band broke into two divisions. One went on, the other stopped before the Café Danemark to intimidate the waiters there. They did not succeed, and after breaking the windows of the cafe they marched on to join their companions, with whom they proceeded to the registry-office for hairdressers in the Rue Thérèse. They were preparing to break into it when 100 policemen came up. There was a fight, which lasted a quarter of an hour, and terminated in favour of the police, who took five persons into custody. No one was seriously injured. It is suspected that all these simultaneous strikes in Paris and the provinces have the same instigators and paymasters as the Boulangist agitation.

Funeral of a Communist—Affrays with the Police.

The funeral of "General" Eudes took place at Paris on Wednesday. At an early hour a crowd of Communists surrounded the residence of the deceased in the Rue Résumur, and it was evident from the first that the spectacle was to be one of those manifestations in which French revolutionaries delight. The authorities had resolved not to tolerate the display of any emblem outside the gates of the cemetery, and to enforce order and obedience. Two companies of the Garde Républicaine were on duty in the Place de la République, whilst nearly 8,000 police-men were sprinkled along the route of the procession. It is only due to the Blanquists to say that instructions had been issued to behave with the greatest calm, and to avoid every kind of provocation. Unfortunately, however, these instructions were not followed. The body of the deceased Communist was carried from the door to a simple-looking hearse, and straightway the immense crowd raised a cry of "Vive la Commune!" All along the route of the procession the mob took off their hats as the body passed, while every now and then there were shouts from windows and balconies. The Place de la République was the chief scene of an affray which unfortunately ended in the wounding of several people. M. Rochefort himself, who endeavoured to prevent the unfurling of a red flag, was attacked by the Anarchists, and left the cortège in apparent disgust.—The rest of the journey to Père Lachaise was more marked by confusion than by positive fighting. At the Place Voltaire the hearse was abandoned by the delegation of the navvies on strike, and another ugly rush took place, in consequence of some rough throwing stones at the police. One man, who was supposed to have fired at M. Clément, was arrested in the Rue de Roquette. Another terrible scene of disorder took place in which, unfortunately, six persons were more or less injured. Shortly after noon the cortège entered the gates of the cemetery, in which, it may be stated, the police were conspicuous by their absence. Speeches were made by M. Félix Pyat and Doctor Susini, after which the crowd dispersed quietly. The number of arrests on Thursday amounts to twenty-five.

SHOCKING BRINGING UP OF CHILDREN.

A little girl named Ethel Baker, residing with her parents in Mill-road, Hammersmith, appeared at the local police court to answer a summons charging her with assaulting Mrs. Louise Perotti, a neighbour.—The complainant said on Monday the defendant got on a gate and knocked the one adjoining, belonging to her, with a stick. Witness went out and remonstrated. The defendant ran the stick and spat in her face. Complainant also stated that there were five children in the family, but they never went to school. They were an annoyance to the neighbours on both sides, but she (witness) had especially suffered. Stones were thrown, breaking the windows, and water thrown into the scullery, flooding it.—The defendant: I have not annoyed you.—Mr. Batchelor Koper, an elderly gentleman residing next door to the complainant, said stones had been thrown at him and his wife by the children. One stone hit his wife while sitting in the room. He was called names, but he had never spoken to them.—The defendant's mother said she might have taken out a dozen summons. It was a trumped-up charge. The windows were broken by the complainant's boy with a catapult in the garden.—A young lady with complainant said she had seen three children at the window spitting. An umbrella protected her clothes. Her sister was not so fortunate.—Mr. Cooke addressed the defendant, and said her conduct had been disgraceful. As she had been so badly brought up and ill-trained he thought it would be better to send her away. He ordered the case to be put back to consider what to do with her.—The officers were removing the defendant, who was crying loudly, when Mr. Cooke said she could remain in court. The mother was assisted out in a fainting condition.—After the business had been disposed of, Mr. Cooke said if the defendant repeated the conduct she would be sent to a reformatory. He ordered her to find a surety for her good behaviour, expressing his willingness to accept her father's recognizance.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT IN LONDON.

Owing to the lateness of the present session the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company have dropped the bill which sought the confirmation of a provisional order recently granted by the Board of Trade, for lighting with the electric light the parishes of St. James, Westminster, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Waterloo Bridge, and a portion of the Victoria Embankment. This bill, which was the only Electric Lighting Bill introduced this session, had passed the examiners, but opposition had been threatened by the parish of St. James

A FRENCH ROMANCE.
The Baker's Assistant and the Butcher's Daughter.

A prosaic baker's assistant and the daughter of an equally commonplace butcher have, says Paris correspondent, been the hero and heroine of a most romantic drama in the southern department of the Hérault. Emile Domergue, of Puissargues, was, however, to do him justice, something more than a baker's boy, for he had served his country in the wars, and had come home from the Tonquin and Madagascar campaigns covered with honourable scars and dazzling decorations. His prowess and his manly bosom, glowing with bits of coloured ribbon to symbolise the medals which he only wore when in the uniform of a "Territorial," attracted the attention of Mademoiselle Germaine, the daughter of the chief local butcher, a young brunet of twenty. Emile and Germaine loved in secret for a year, and when the butcher was a "terrible Turk," who watched his offspring with close care. At last Emile had to leave Puissargues and find a domicile in Béziers. Germaine was disconsolate, and wrote frequent love letters to him, with the result that the garcon-boulangier resolved to perform the greatest deed of daring of which a French lover can be capable. He resolved to carry on the road to the sea, and to do this he stole stealthily under the window of his sweetheart one night, when the butcher was fast asleep. The young lady herself was, however, wide awake. She opened her lattice and flung down a pair of boots to her lover, who kissed them and put them in his pocket. Next she threw from her boudoir a collection of feminine mysteries, and finally she dropped to the ground, and was assisted to the chariot, which was to convey herself and her lover away. They went off towards Béziers, where they spent the night in an inn, and had a honeymoon of two days, at the termination of which they were "nabbed" by the butcher and a select band of his deputy-destroyers of animal life. Emile Domergue was tried at the assizes for abduction, and the proceedings were full of strange incidents and surprises. The friend who received Mdlle. Germaine into his arms when she effected the drop from her boudoir said that he was merely hanging around the butcher's mansion "promiscuous like," and that the young lady suddenly fell over him. She was in a fainting condition, and he carried her to a post-chaise which he had in readiness for his own lady love. This witness provoked the "hilarity" of the audience, says the trustworthy chronicler of the trial, and so well he might; but Mdlle. Germaine's evidence was the greatest surprise of all. So strange was it, in fact, that the ladies in court—there were numerous, and all-sided and sympathetic to a woman with the bear Monsieur Emile—said that she had been threatened by her husband and compelled to turn traitress to her knight. Mdlle. Germaine deposed that she did not love Emile at all; that he had followed her about and threatened to make away with himself unless she acceded to his requests; but, Mademoiselle, said the knowing and dubious judge who presided at the assizes, "Emile was a fine fellow and a brave soldier. Moreover, recollect that you wrote love-letters to him, and that the postscript of one of your epistles was in characters of blood." To this the lady replied that she had pricked herself with the pen while writing, and she denied any knowledge of the warlike bravery of her suitor. The girl's father was next heard, and he vehemently asserted that the baker's boy was a "bad lot," who had threatened to kill his daughter. Ultimately, however, the defendant was acquitted, amid the enthusiastic applause of the feminine portion of the audience in court.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE OF DROWNING A CHILD.
At the Manchester County Police Court, Thomas Hammond, labourer, was charged on suspicion with having drowned a child in the canal at Barton. A woman, named Elizabeth Priest, stated that about half-past nine on Tuesday night she was on the road leading from Patricroft Bridge to the Barton Post-office along with two other persons. She saw two men, one with a baby in his arms, come from the shadow of some trees. The baby cried out "Ma," and immediately after one of the men carried the child to the rails separating the foot-path from the towing-path, and after giving it a sort of "screw" threw it on its back into the water. The child floated for a few minutes, and then sank. Information was at once conveyed to the police, but the prisoner stayed near the place where the child was thrown into the water till a constable arrived. Hammond was very drunk, and nothing rational could be got from him, and he was taken to the police-station. On Wednesday he was charged, and replied, "It is a wrong thing; I know nothing about it." Superintendent Bent said that though the canal at the place in question had been dragged no body had been found. He applied for a remand in order that further inquiries could be made. The stipendiary granted the remand.

RUFFIANISM IN MARYLEBONE.
George Allingham, 19, labourer, was charged at Marylebone Police Court with being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting the police.—Constable 286 D said he was on duty in the neighbourhood of Lison Grove, on Bank Holiday night. About twenty minutes past one o'clock he was in Devonshire-place, and seeing a disorderly gang singing and dancing in the street to the tune of a barrel organ playing, he ordered them away, and the prisoner, with others, moved away. Allingham on reaching the doorway of one of the houses stopped and hurled a brick at witness, and it struck him on the shoulder. Assistant-gaoler Barrett said this was a continuation of the riotous conduct which was before the court in a case against five men on Tuesday.—Corroborative evidence having been given the prisoner denied the charge, and said he was in the room where the organ was playing. He had occasion to go out, and because he went into the room by getting through the window the police arrested him. He called Mr. Barton and Mrs. Pace, who said the prisoner was in his room with the organ. Somebody threw a brick from the top of a house and it fell near the constable, who gave a jump. Barton remarked to himself, "That policeman has had a narrow escape," and the constable at the same time remarked, "It did not hit me," and a voice from a house replied, "It should have done."—Mrs. Pace said the constable escaped the blow by jumping.—The Constable: It would make anyone jump to have a brick hurled at his shoulder. Assistant-gaoler Barrett said it would be impossible for the brick to come from the house-top and strike the officer on the shoulder. The houses were high, and the court was narrow, and if the brick had been thrown in that way it would have fallen on his head.—Mr. Hannay remarked that this was highly dangerous conduct, and he agreed with what Mr. Cooke said the other day that strong measures must be taken to put a stop to this lawless conduct. He sentenced the prisoner to one month's imprisonment.

Dean Fremantle is about to construct a large public swimming-bath at Rapon, and he has undertaken to bear the whole cost of the work.

STRONG EVIDENCE.
(From the "BLACKBURN TIMES.")

WILLIAM HENRY HOLDEN, residing at 26, Whalley Old-road, Blackburn, has ever since 1878, at frequent intervals, been subjected to indiscriminate suffering, owing to terrible attacks of intense pain and swelling in his feet. His agony at such times almost drove him frantic. As is natural to suppose, everything that was recommended for the ailment, which was of an acute rheumatic nature, was used, but either owing to the stubbornness of the complaint or other causes, all the remedies applied proved futile. A few weeks ago, Mr. Holden, hearing how the life of Mr. William Buchanan, one of the Cunard Steamship Company's engineers, had been saved by St. Jacob's Oil, after he had been given up by the Liverpool doctors to die, and had been at times deprived of his reason, resolved to induce his son to try this Oil, and procure a bottle from Jackson and Co.'s drug store. To his utter amazement, and that of all the members of his family, the excreting pain and terrible swelling left after only a few applications of the remedy had been made, and the young man was now free from his sufferings. "The change brought about by this bottle of St. Jacob's Oil is simply wonderful," remarked Mr. Holden, "and I gladly state that it has done more for my son in a single minute than all the remedies we had used before that time had accomplished in fourteen years. This may seem like a gross statement, but it is the plain, simple truth, and I gladly give my consent to the publication of our experience with this wonderful remedy." It may here be stated that leading newspapers of Manchester and Liverpool have recently reported similar remarkable cures. Among these is that of Mr. John Tetlow, a well-known resident of Oldham, who had long been so seriously afflicted with rheumatism that he was unable to walk. He was kept with agony. A single bottle of St. Jacob's Oil effected such a marvellous change that he is now entirely free from pain, but, although sixty years of age, he can walk as well as ever. So delighted was he with his relief that he personally sent a testimonial to the Great Britain Branch of the proprietors, The Charles A. Vogeler

THE PEOPLE'S PALACE.
Opening of an Exhibition by the Duchess of Albany.

The People's Palace at the East-end was on Saturday afternoon the scene of an interesting and pleasing ceremony when the Duchess of Albany opened an exhibition of high-class paintings. The exhibition was intended as an inauguration of an autumn fete. The pictures, which had been lent by the various artists, were tastefully arranged round the Queen's Hall, while in the centre there was a choice assortment of plants and flowers. The grounds surrounding the People's Palace were easily decorated with flags, banners, and bannisters. As early as half past one a large number of people crowded the streets leading to the exhibition. The duchess, who arrived at about half-past three o'clock, was received by the trustees in the garrison, and then walked through the exhibition buildings and visited the swimming bath. Her Royal highness, after visiting the library, entered the Queen's Hall, where the People's Palace Choral and Orchestral Societies, with the assistance of Mr. A. Hollins, the newly-appointed organist to the palace, sang the National Anthem. Among those present were Sir E. Hay Currie and Lady Currie, Sir Rogers Jennings and Lady Jennings, Lieutenant-General Greenway, Mr. R. F. Barrow, Mr. Spencer Charlton, M.P., Mr. F. J. W. Dellow, Sir F. Young, Captain Spencer Beaumont, and many others.—After the princess had sat down in front of the platform, Sir E. Hay Currie said—

"The presence of your Royal highness to-day at the People's Palace is but another proof of the personal sympathy and interest which the Queen and the various members of the Royal family have throughout shown in an undertaking, practically the first of its kind, that has been established for the benefit of the vast working population of East London. It will be in the recollection of your Royal highness that the institution, generally, was publicly opened by her Gracious Majesty on the 16th of May in last year, the foundation stone of the central portion—the Queen's Hall—having been laid two months previously by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, from the Queen's Hall, taken a week earlier in the People's Palace movement. The act of laying the first stone of the library through which we have just passed was performed by his Majesty the King of the Belgians, in June, 1887, and the trustees deeply regret the circumstances which prevented your Royal highness from inaugurating the public use of the building in January last. In connection with this portion of the People's Palace, more particularly, the thoughts of the trustees could not but go back to the prince, whose early loss to England will long be deplored by all who value the cause of education and culture. Had the Duke of Albany been spared, we may reasonably believe that he would have shown an especial sympathy with and gladly have promoted the operations of the People's Palace, directed as they are towards both the mental and physical advancement, together with the rational amanagement of the poorer inhabitants of the eastern half of London. Pending the erection of the library proper, which is calculated to hold some 250,000 books, the work of this department has, since October last, been temporarily carried on at the Queen's Hall; and, in spite of the difficulties and inconveniences from such an arrangement, thousands of the old and young of both sexes have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them. There is, therefore, no room for doubt as to the utility and popularity of the permanent structure, with its enormously increased advantages, especially as it adjoins the new technical schools, the gift of the Drapers' Company, now being erected, and which will be occupied in October, and the trustees hope that, by the continued liberality of the public, a collection of £100,000 will gradually be formed, fitted for the requirements of all classes of readers, and one that will be a source of instruction and recreation for generations. The erection of the library will, however, add greatly to the cost of the permanent structure, and it would be nugatory not to refer to the fact that no less than £20,000 of this sum has been subscribed by Mr. T. Dyer Edwards, in addition to his generous gift of the fine organ placed in the Queen's Hall. I will not detain your Royal highness in mentioning in detail the numerous exhibitions, dove shows, concerts, and other entertainments, a constant success, which have been maintained, to the great enjoyment of the inhabitants of the district generally, since the opening of the palace; but a simple statement of the fact that, during the nine months in question, no fewer than nearly a million visits have been made to it, will sufficiently show the vast difference which the People's Palace must already have made in the lives of the poorer classes surrounding it. The trustees beg once more to express their grateful acknowledgement for your Royal highness's kindness in undertaking the service which they have ventured to request of you personally, the opening of the permanent hall of pictures, which have been lent to the Palace by the liberality of the various owners. They are indebted to the exertions and the kindness of the directors of the new gallery, will be thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by the large numbers who frequent the Palace, and who cannot fail to be impressed by the great beauty and excellence of the collection. They would now beg your Royal Highness kindly to declare the exhibition open." (Cheer.)

The duchess, who held in her hands a large bouquet of flowers, in a clear voice, then said:—"I declare this loan exhibition open."—The prizes awarded at the late competition of members of the People's Palace were then presented by the princess, who shortly afterwards left. During the afternoon a vocal and instrumental concert was given in the Queen's Hall, under the direction of Mr. Orton Bradley, M.A. The band of the Scots Guards were also in attendance, and played selections.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.
At the Wesleyan Conference, now being held at Camborne, it was announced on Saturday that the denomination had issued 7,507,327 publications during the year, from the profits of which the following grants were made:—The Annuity Society, £3,000; Home Missions, £500; Ireland, £100; Auxiliary Fund, £100; additional to Ireland, £100; and Auxiliary Fund, £100.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY.
On Saturday afternoon a county demonstration was held at Tatton Park, Lord Egerton's Cheshire seat, in support of the policy of the Government. His lordship had been announced to preside, but was prevented by a family bereavement. Mr. Elliott Lee, M.P., presided, and amongst the speakers were Mr. MacLure, M.P., and Mr. Smith Harry, M.P. Resolutions approving of the English and Irish policy of the Government were passed.

ACTION FOR LIBEL.
At Leeds Assizes last week Mr. Thomas Willer, chairman of the Leeds guardians and a member of the town council, claimed £2,000 damages from Messrs. F. White (druggist) and M. E. Appleby (master jeweller), for a libel contained in a handbill issued during the last election of guardians, insinuating that Mr. Willer, as chairman of the board, used his position for his own ends. A verdict was given for the plaintiff, with £25 damages.

A REPRIEVE.
The news reached Armagh on Saturday evening from the Lord-lieutenant of Ireland that the sentence of death passed on William Thompson for the murder of his brother-in-law, Thomas Thompson, in Knocknacuckley Church, near Portadown, in March last, had been commuted to penal servitude for life. The Rev. John Elliott, upon receipt of the news, at once conveyed the intelligence to the culprit. Much satisfaction is felt at the result.

On Saturday afternoon, at a few minutes before three o'clock, two ladies, said to be sisters, were crossing the road at the bottom of Northumberland Avenue, when they were knocked down and run over by a hansom cab. They were picked up and conveyed with promptitude in a four-wheeled cab to the Charing Cross Hospital, where it was found that they had sustained severe injuries.

At the Croydon Petty Sessions on Saturday, Alfred William Wood, a coal porter, was charged on remand with being drunk and recklessly driving a horse and cart. Inspector Butters stated that two children were run over by the defendant's cart; one had recovered, but the other was still unwell. The magistrates allowed the case to be disposed of on the prisoner paying the parents £10, each compensation, and £10 costs.

On Saturday Mr. G. P. Wyatt was notified of the death of Henry Bouncer, aged 25, a labourer, lately residing in the Borough. It would appear that about ten o'clock in the morning the deceased fell down a hole loop, a distance of 3ft., at Measles Anderson and Cattley's Soap Manufactury in Great Suffolk-street, Borough. He was removed to St. Thomas's Hospital, where he died soon after his admission.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

The formation of encampments of Volunteers in the metropolitan and many provincial districts was commenced on Saturday, extending over a portion or the whole of the approaching holiday week. In the home district the Old Deer Park at Richmond, Avery Hill Park, Eltham, and Rainham in Essex were severally selected for Volunteer camps, and further afield, Colchester and Shorncliffe in the south, and Streatham Common in the north, were thronged with Volunteers bent on a martial holiday. At Richmond the Finsbury Rifles, driven by the rain from their ancient habitat in North London, formed camp on Friday, and on Saturday the whole battalion mustered in camp to undergo their official annual inspection, Colonel Barrgrave Deane being in command of the regiment. At Avery Hill Park, Colonel F. T. North had invited the regiment commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Sir A. Kirby, and of which Colonel North is the honorary commandant, to become his guests for the holiday, and the camp equipment belonging to the corps was brought into full requisition. Lieutenant-colonel Coles, R.E., had gone down with an advanced detachment to prepare the camp followed by the main body, by the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Seveil, the camp being reached about six o'clock. The entire regiment was entertained at dinner in the evening, and the company was entertained subsequently with an exhibition of fireworks. At Rainham the camp of the London Rifle Brigade for the annual brigade rifle competitions was formed and the earliest of the series of competitions, which extend over several days, were commenced.

THE ECHO SHIELD AT THE IRISH EXHIBITION.

An interesting ceremony took place on Saturday at the Irish Exhibition, Olympia, connected with the recent brilliant victory of the Irish riflemen shooting in the Echo Match at Wimbledon. The great iron shield given as the challenge prize by Lord Echo (now the Earl of Wemyss), for the greatest of all long range matches, has on the many occasions on which it has been won by Ireland always been received with honour in Dublin, and has formed a prominent object of attraction in any exhibition of Irish industry which might happen to have been held in the year of the victory. Following former precedents, it was desired to give the Echo Shield an honourable place in the present Irish Exhibition, and it was entrusted for the purpose by the Duke of Abercorn to the commanding officer of the London Irish Rifles, pending the arrangements for its reception at Olympia. On Saturday the shield was placed on a gun-carriage supplied by the 2nd Middlesex Artillery, and escorted from Somerset House to Kensington by a strong detachment of the London Irish Rifles, numbering about 200 officers and men, of whom Major Lloyd was in command. Preceded by the band of the regiment, the shield and its escort arrived at the Hammersmith gate of the Exhibition, where Lord Arthur Hill, M.P., was in attendance to receive it. Major Lloyd, addressing Lord Arthur Hill, said the London Irish Rifles had been charged with the honourable duty of escorting the trophy which the Irish eight had won for the twelfth time against England and Scotland at Wimbledon, making the authorities of the exhibition to take charge of it during the continuance of the exhibition, and to undertake to see it safely delivered to the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the conclusion.—Lord Arthur Hill said he had the greatest possible pleasure in accepting the honourable trust on behalf of the direction, and instructions had been given for the installation of the shield in a conspicuous position in the art galleries, where it would be taken every care of by Mr. S. Drewett, the art superintendent. The shield was then carried in a triumphal procession round the interior of the exhibition, preceded and followed by the London Irish escort, which included one of the Irish twenty champions, Private Smith, in full war paint, and bearing on his arms more than a score of badges. The designated spot in the gallery having been reached, Major Lloyd ordered the salute, the band struck up the regimental air, and then "God Save the Queen," after which the men were entertained in the lower concert room to supper. During the evening the members of the London Irish School of Arms gave an athletic performance and assault-at-arms under the direction of Mr. Wallace, the instructor of the school, and Staff-surgeon Brasheir, the hon. secretary. Mr. Wallace and Corporal Brown put on the gloves, and gave a capital specimen of their scientific employment, while Corporal Burbridge and Private Turner greatly amused the company with some bouts of comic boxing. The assault-at-arms was concluded with sword, lance, and bayonet, closing with a sham fight and fireworks.

A DARING LEAP FROM A BALLOON.

On Saturday evening Professor Baldwin, the American aeronaut, for the third time at the Alexandra Palace performed his perilous feat of jumping from a balloon and descending by means of his patented parachute, in the presence of many thousands of spectators. For some time it was doubtful whether the attempt would be made, owing to the strong and gusty wind prevailing.

Mr. Hayward, the manager of the Alexandra Palace, and Mr. Farini, the manager for Professor Baldwin, left the aeronaut entirely free to exercise his own judgment and discretion on the matter, and after giving the subject due consideration, Mr. Baldwin decided on going through his performance rather than disappoint the public. All being ready, the balloon was set free with the parachute hanging by its side, the aeronaut supporting himself on a hoop or ring attached to the carless balloon. The balloon shot upwards in an easterly direction at a rapid rate, and when at an altitude of between two and three thousand feet Professor Baldwin leapt away from it with his parachute. The balloon continued on its upward journey, and was lost for the time being, while Professor Baldwin and his parachute were wafted away to Wood Green, about a mile and a half from the Palace. Many of the spectators trembled for the fate of the aeronaut, in view of the house-top and church spires, near which he was descending, but he safely landed on a piece of waste ground near the Fishmongers' Arms. The ascent occupied about three-quarters of a minute, and the descent two minutes and a quarter. Half-an-hour afterwards Professor Baldwin appeared with Mr. Farini and Mr. Hayward on the stage in the central hall of the palace, and was loudly cheered.

A variety and other entertainments were given at the palace on Saturday, including Messrs. Pain and Son's representation of "The Last Days of Pompeii."

Mr. William Begg, son of the late Mr. William Burns Begg, schoolmaster, Kirkside, and grandnephew of the poet Robert Burns, died in Newcastle-on-Tyne on Saturday, his age being 49 years.

The coroner was notified last week of the death of Arthur King, aged 6 months, whose parents reside at Cross-street, Thomas-street, Whitechapel. The child fell off a stool on Thursday night, and was admitted to the London Hospital with severe concussion of the brain, and died of shock.

On Saturday afternoon, Richard Marsh, aged 53 years, residing at 229, Wandsworth-road, was admitted to the Clayton Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital, suffering from a serious scalp wound caused by a fall from a load of hay at Nine Elms, Vauxhall. He was conveyed to the hospital by Police-officer No. 323, W Division.

Mr. Justice Clitty on Saturday made an order for the release of a defendant from prison in the action of "Be Ward, Wilson, and Wilson." The defendant had been six months in prison for contempt of court, this consisting of disobedience of a court order directing him to pay a sum of money into court. He now undertook to give a proper account he died from blood poisoning.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND WORKING MEN'S SOCIETY.

The twelfth annual meeting of this society was held on Saturday at Cannon-street Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. E. M. Ingram.—The report stated that the number of members were 6,816, associates 1,446, hon. members 1,228, or a total of 9,490. There was a serious falling off in the receipts from last year; yet the council did not despair of ultimately placing the society upon a secure financial basis, if only the branches would respond to the requirements of the rule relating to the payment of half subscriptions.—The president said they had before them a very important point, to consider the recent attack made upon one of the most respected and revered bishops of their bench, the Bishop of Lincoln. The society had been known in times past as a valiant defender of the persecuted clergy of the catholic school, and they might be quite sure that it would not be wanting in being a valiant defender of a catholic bishop. (Hear, hear.) During the past year, with many successes and some failures, the society had been blessed in the work for which from the first it was intended. Mr. T. Plant moved:—"That this meeting views with the deepest indignation the attempt recently made by a body of professing Churchmen to disturb the peace of the Church by its attack on the much-respected and venerated Bishop of Lincoln, and begs to assure his lordship of its profound sympathy and earnest prayers that such proceedings may be overruled by the great head of the Church, to his glory and the spread of catholic faith and practice." He contended that the attack upon the bishop was a most cruel one, and the society was prepared to follow him before they would follow the dictates of the Church Association.—Mr. W. H. Webb seconded the motion, which was agreed to.—The following resolution was also carried:—

"(1) That this meeting ventures to record its profound conviction that no system of national education can be satisfactory which excludes the teaching of definite religious truth as the basis of sound moral training; and further, that that object can best be attained by the maintenance of existing voluntary schools; (2) That inasmuch as the bulk of the educational work of this country is carried on in the said schools, and a large proportion of the cost contributed by their supporters, and that the closing of these schools would entail a serious additional burden on ratepayers, Churchmen are entitled to claim a larger share of support for such schools than they at present receive, in the way of capitation grants."

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

At Castlereagh on Saturday, after an adjournment for one month, the trial of John Fitzpatrick, Michael Nord, Francis Finlay, Bernard McHugh, Richard Burke, Thomas Tovey, Martin Oates, and Patrick Conroy, for alleged conspiracy under the Plan of Campaign, was resumed. A number of witnesses who were committed for contempt of court on a former occasion to eight days' imprisonment, again refused to be sworn, and were ordered to stand aside. Mr. Burke, the crown solicitor, intimating that the Crown would find other means of dealing with them. Five witnesses did not put in an appearance, and warrants were issued for their arrest. The case against Burke was subsequently withdrawn.—A shop assistant named Kelly then deposed that he saw Constable Clark giving money to a witness named Keenan.

Mr. Townsend was put in the witness-box, with reference to an allegation that he used money at the private inquiry to bribe witnesses, and was subjected to a severe cross-examination, but nothing material was elicited. The case was ultimately adjourned.

LORD KNOTSFORD AND THE BOROUGH OF HAMPSTEAD.

On Saturday afternoon a portrait of Lord Knutsford, which has been painted by Mr. E. Gustave Girardot, of Upper Park-road, Haverstock Hill, was viewed in that able artist's studio, by Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., and other members of the committee, who had raised the fund by means of which the work has been carried out. The portrait is to be hung in the Hampstead Vestry Hall, in commemoration of the formation of that parish into a separate Parliamentary borough, and of Lord Knutsford's connection therewith, when Sir Henry Holland, as its first member. The fund, which was originated by the Hampstead and Southgate Conservative Association, has been subscribed by members of all political parties in the borough, where Lord Knutsford was and is very popular. The right hon. gentleman has given Mr. Girardot several special sittings for the portrait, and the artist has succeeded in producing a most excellent and lifelike picture, upon which he was highly complimented, the committee unanimously passing a resolution in the studio, expressing their complete satisfaction with the artist's work.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Mr. John William Taylor, of Carshalton, Surrey, only son of the late Captain W. Taylor, with Miss Florence Irene Emily Crichton-Brunne, only daughter of Sir James and Lady Crichton-Brunne, of Cundean, Dumfries, and 7, Cumberland-terrace, Regent's Park, took place Saturday afternoon, at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Walter Brownlow, assisted by the Rev. Malthe Brownlow and the Rev. Canon Festing, of Christ Church, Albany-street. Nine bridesmaids attended the bride—Miss Duncan, Miss Marion, Marguerite, and Gwendoline, Misses Lillian Gordon, Miss Evelyn Property, Miss Maud Bruce, Miss Evelyn Probert, and Miss Balfour Browne, who were dressed very effectively in Indian Nagpore silk of two shades, the overdress being of rose-leaf green. The hats were of Panama straw, faced with pink, and with clusters of roses in front. Their ornaments were pearl and diamond brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Master Chambre Moore followed as page, costumed in Louis XVI. style, in plush and silk to match bridesmaids' dresses. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of rich white satin duchesse, with long train ornamented with lace and orange buds, the petticoat was draped with curious old Brussels lace (the gift of her mother) and held with bunches of real orange flowers. Her veil was fastened with a large diamond spray.

A SNAKE IN BERMONDSEY.

A snake, about 3ft. 2in. long and 1in. in diameter, has been discovered lying curled up in the gutter of an out-house belonging to Messrs. Hosking, engineers, Dockhead, Bermondsey. Efforts were made to capture it, but it once reared its head up and shot out its fangs on any approach being made towards it. Eventually a large can was placed near the reptile, and this it was tempted to enter, and was thus secured. Soon afterwards it mysteriously disappeared, however, and considerable excitement prevailed on Saturday in the locality, no trace of the strange visitor having been found. The supposition is that the reptile escaped from a menagerie which was stationed in the neighbourhood about a couple of years ago.

Mr. Collier held an inquest last week at Shadwell on the body of Arthur Henry Fox, aged 11 months, the son of licensed victualler, carrying on business at 28, Sutton-street, St. George's-in-the-East. On Wednesday the deceased, who had previously always enjoyed good health, was seized with a fit and died within ten minutes. The cause of death was dentition consequent on teething.

On Saturday afternoon, Richard Marsh, aged 53 years, residing at 229, Wandsworth-road, was admitted to the Clayton Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital, suffering from a serious scalp wound caused by a fall from a load of hay at Nine Elms, Vauxhall. He was conveyed to the hospital by Police-officer No. 323, W Division.

Mr. Justice Clitty on Saturday made an order for the release of a defendant from prison in the action of "Be Ward, Wilson, and Wilson."

The defendant had been six months in prison for contempt of court, this consisting of disobedience of a court order directing him to pay a sum of money into court. He now undertook to give a proper account he died from blood poisoning.

ARMY STATIONS FOR AUGUST.

(Where two places are mentioned, the last-named is that at which the Depot is stationed.)

1st Life Guards, Hyde Park
2nd Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
3rd Dragoon Guards, Royal Horse Guards, Regent's Park
4th Dragoon Guards, Canterbury
5th Dragoon Guards, Rawal Pindi
6th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
7th Dragoon Guards, Umballa
8th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
9th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
10th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
11th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
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70th Dragoon Guards, Aldershot
71st Dragoon Guards

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Jet mining still lingers in the Whitby district. Electricity is to be introduced into Hong Kong.

In the vast empire of Russia there are now some twelve thousand Baptists.

The Duke of Edinburgh was 44 years old on Bank Holiday.

An application to set aside the commitment of Mr. John Dillon, M.P., has been refused by the Dublin Court of Exchequer.

Much damage has been done in the vineyards of Austria and Hungary by the heavy rains and hailstorms.

Queen Natalie intends to appear in person at the proceedings in which King Milan will seek to obtain a separation.

The extensive saw mills at Wallsend, owned by Messrs. Townsend and Ripley, were destroyed by fire on Thursday.

The Prince of Wales has seventeen brothers-in-law, sixteen uncles, fifty-seven cousins, fifty-eight nephews and nieces.

For each hundred children between 6 and 14 years of age in the United States, 640 were throughout 1886 in average daily attendance at the schools.

George W. Howard was bathing at Brighton. He got out of his depth, and, being unable to swim, was drowned before help, which was instantly called, could arrive.

For every 173,900 tons of coal raised in the United Kingdom a life is lost by accident in and about the mines, but in South Wales a life is so lost for every 25,195 tons.

The marriage statistics in the annual report show that the rate of persons married to population has almost uninterruptedly declined yearly from 176 per 1,000 in 1873 to 161 in 1886.

The Porte has received information from its representative in Berlin that negotiations will shortly begin between Germany, Austria, and Italy on the Bulgarian difficulty.

At Somerset House a gasfitter went to open the 18-inch main, when he was overpowered by the gas and killed. The unfortunate man, whose name was William Chapman, and whose age was 45, leaves a widow and six children.

General Sheridan, who has been in ill-health for some months past, died at his country residence at Nonquitt, Massachusetts, on Sunday night, death being due to failure of the heart's action.

A man named Richard Abbott, aged 53, of 11, Hornby-road, Peckham, fell out of a cart on Wednesday, hurting his back and loins. He did not go to a doctor, but obtained some lotion from a chemist's. On Thursday he was found dead in bed.

The annual meeting of the High Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters was opened at Reading on Tuesday, when the High Chief Ranger, Mr. Edward Lovegrove, of Reading, delivered his inaugural address. Over 500 delegates presented their credentials.

The Empress Victoria has now resolved to make the so-called Crown Prince's Palace at Berlin her principal residence, in order that she may be near the numerous charitable institutions established by herself and her late consort in Berlin.

In 1884 the autumn session began on the 23rd of October, and lasted until the 6th of December. This year it will probably be a week later before the House reassembles, and a week, or perhaps ten days, before it is allowed to rise for the Christmas holidays.

Many of the best pictures in the famous Painted Hall at Greenwich Hospital are about to be photographed, by order of the Admiralty. The works deal with important naval events in English history, and contain a number of well-authenticated portraits of great commanders.

The Admiralty have given a contract to Messrs. Maudslay, Sons, and Field, London, for engines of 20,000-horse power, for the new swift cruiser Blake, at an estimated cost of £140,000. This is said to be the highest engine-power put into any vessel of the Royal Navy. The Blake is now under construction at Chatham Dockyard.

A terrible murder has occurred at Peking. A husband, in a fit of rage at some unbecoming conduct on the part of his wife—the poor woman being crazy—killed her, cut her body into minute pieces, and scattered them in different parts of Peking. The wretch has been arrested and awaits trial.

The American papers—the Chicago Tribune in particular—are reviving the story of Mrs. Langtry's marriage to handsome Fred Gebhard. The Tribune actually says that it is currently reported that the honeymoon is now proceeding. Meantime it is well to remember Mrs. Langtry's comment on a similar story: "A pack of lies."

No continental city contains so many foreigners as Paris. Belgians come first on the list, numbering 46,449; there are 30,229 Germans, 23,781 Swiss, and 22,589 Italians. Nearly all these people belong to the labouring classes. The contrary is the case with English, Americans, Spaniards, and Russians, all of whom are very numerous.

A New York correspondent states that Irishmen throughout the country are sending remonstrances to the Governor of Missouri with regard to the efforts made in favour of Brooks, alias Maxwell. While not seeking the death of the condemned man, they urged the Governor to investigate the case of O'Donnell, the murderer of the informer Carey, who was a citizen of the United States.

It is reported that great dissatisfaction prevails among the Americans in Russia owing to the Russian Government continuing to interfere with the educational programme of their schools. The authorities are endeavouring to remove existing grievances, so that the subject races in the Caucasus and Transcaucasia may give a hearty welcome to the Czar on his contemplated tour to those regions.

Patrol parties were placed at frequent intervals along the lines of the Metropolitan and District Railways on Bank Holiday, in consequence of a communication received from Scotland Yard that threats had been made to wreck trains of the two companies with explosives. The patrols remained on duty throughout Monday night, and until the trains had ceased running, but nothing of a suspicious nature was found.

The annual statistical report of the German Jewish community shows that the number of Jews in the Kingdom of Prussia in 1880 was 363,790, or 1.33 per cent. of the total population; and in 1885 366,543, or 1.29 percent. There was thus an absolute increase in the Jewish population, but a relative decrease. The increase was greatest in Berlin, where in the five years it amounted to 10,406.

It is reported in Munich that the meeting of the Italian Crown Prince with the Crown Princess Stephanie in the Bavarian capital is to be regarded as the first step preliminary to the betrothal of the Royal visitor with the Austrian Crown Princess's youngest sister, the Princess Clementine of Belgium. The Italian Prince is nearly 19, while the Princess Clementine celebrated her 16th birthday on the 30th of last month.

The French Minister tells us that France contains 45,000,000 hens, worth on an average 50 cents, apiece. One-fifth of these hens and 2,000,000 cocks are killed annually, and they sell for \$5,500,000 in the market. The other 36,000,000 hens lay about 3,060,000,000 eggs every year, worth 1.5 cents apiece; this sums up to less than \$36,740,000. Therefore the chickens of France produce \$37,200,000 a year." So an American journalist tells his readers.

Although the weather was not by any means favourable for out-door amusements on Monday, very large numbers of Londoners turned out to enjoy the Bank Holiday. The various places of resort outside London had numerous visitors, those in places close to town being to a large extent driven homewards early in the afternoon by rain. The various museums and exhibitions

in town were well filled during the day, and in the evening the theatres were thronged.

Kaiser William's favourite flower is said to be the blue lobelia.

The British Medical Association held its annual congress this week in Glasgow.

Mr. S. E. Howell, of the firm of Messrs. Howell and Co., file and steel manufacturers, has been elected Master Cutler of Sheffield.

The death-rate in London for the quarter just ended was 16.9, against an average of 15.1 in the twenty-seven great provincial towns.

The average expenditure in drink in New South Wales is £4 1s. 6d. per head of the population.

The Barnum of the West—Jack Robinson—is dead. His demise occurred at Cincinnati. He leaves an estate valued at \$3,000,000.

Filioux, a blind man, has been acquitted, after having been tried at Aix, in Provence, for cutting his wife's throat. He was jealous.

The Royal Yacht Squadron race for her Majesty's Cup took place on Tuesday of Cowes, when Moira, Captain Aldridge's cutter, won.

Preparations are being made for the intended visit of the Czar to Raku, where his Majesty is expected to arrive on October 7th or 8th.

The habit of the young Emperor of China is to rise at three o'clock in the morning, breakfast at six, dine at noon, sup at three, and go to bed between five and six in the afternoon.

A woman named Sorai and her lover have been condemned to hard labour for life for the murder of a gamekeeper—the female prisoner's husband—at Bellengrave, in Calvado, last March.

There are sixty-three persons by the name of Smith in the New South Wales Civil Service (the governor not counted), and ten are known to fame as Smythe.

Mlle. Emilie V. Kempin, Doctor of Law, has opened in Zurich an office as consulting barrister. She has not, however, been allowed so far to plead in the Law Courts.

New York women, married ones among them, are becoming real estates, druggists, clerks, doctors, lawyers, and barbers, as well as typewriters, and florists.

Concerning the hop crop in Kent and Sussex, grave reports are at hand. The planters are beginning to get alarmed, for there is a spread of mould, and vermin has considerably increased.

Mount Kenya—known to all travellers in the vicinity of Zanzibar—has recently been scaled to the height of 15,000 feet by Count Jeleki, a Hungarian traveller, but it is believed to be 3,000, if not 5,000, feet higher.

Sarah Kelly died at Belleville, New Jersey, after having fasted for forty-two days. She was 53 years of age. When she began to refuse food, she weighed 132 pounds, and at the time of her death she weighed only 50 pounds.

The ladies of Bluffton, Ind., have formed a Frances Cleveland Club. They do not care a cent whether there is a high or low tariff, so that the lady whose name they bear is retained as mistress of the White House for four years more.

Aberdeen was bombarded early on Tuesday morning by four of her Majesty's ships, which subsequently continued their journey southwards, entered the Firth of Forth, bombarded Inchkeith, and "destroyed" the Forth Bridge.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder in the case of J. Willis, who is alleged to have been murdered in his garden at Dodderhill, near Droitwich, by Samuel Crowther, who was committed for trial at the Worcestershire assizes.

A serious gas explosion occurred on Tuesday on the premises of Mr. Johnson, draper, &c., High-street, Kingsland, which shattered the shop and blew out the upper windows of the house. Several assistants had narrow escapes.

An extraordinary plague of caterpillars visited Highgate Woods this year, devouring the leaves almost as soon as they appeared. It is at least satisfactory to know that the trees are bursting out afresh, and that all signs of the plague will soon be gone.

Emily Bailey, a saleswoman, of Margaret-street, and Charlotte Ormiston, a lodging-house keeper, of Brackenbury-road, Shepherd's Bush, were, at the Marlborough-street Police Court, severally charged with frauds upon tradesmen at the West-end, and were committed for trial.

A meat salesman has been fined £20 at the Guildhall for exposing ten pieces of putrid pork for sale in the Central Meat-market. The medical officer of health stated that had the meat been eaten it would have been most dangerous to those who happened to partake of it.

The Archbishop of York this week consecrated a new church at Whitby. The site is on the West cliff, the principal resort of visitors during the summer season, and the cost of the new church is about £15,000. Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., gave the site and contributed £2,000 to the building fund.

The police, on proceeding to a publichouse in Ballymoney, county Antrim, where a fire was reported to have broken out, having forced an entrance, found the daughter of the landlady busily engaged throwing paraffin oil against the ceiling in an upper room, and trying to ignite it with a candle. She was immediately arrested.

It was discovered the other morning that the offices of the Cornwall Railway, at Millbay, Plymouth, had been broken into, the safe unlocked, and the takings of the whole line on the previous day, which, as usual, had been deposited there, were missing. The sum stolen is believed to amount to about £2,000, and so far there is no trace of the thief or thieves.

The Foreign Office intimates that no fee of 4s. for attesting certificates of origin is leviable in Austria, and exporters in the United Kingdom are consequently exempted from it. Patterns sent by exporters of British tissues to Italy must be accompanied by a certificate of origin, as otherwise they are liable to be charged duty as French goods.

At the Mansion House on Tuesday the Lord Mayor expressed his great satisfaction that there was only one case to be brought before him, and that only a charge against boys for throwing stones. But for that case, his lordship added, he should have been entitled to a pair of white gloves. He expressed the great pleasure it gave him to observe the rational way in which the people had enjoyed the Bank Holiday.

An accident occurred on the main line at Hastings on Thursday. A coal merchant named George Chapman was trying to avoid a goods train when he was knocked down by an empty passenger train, and thrown under the former, the engine and two trucks passing over him. His left leg and right foot were smashed, and his head injured. He was conveyed to the hospital, where his leg was amputated.

An inquest was held at Camberwell on Wednesday by Mr. Wyatt, on the body of Henry Matthew Ventris, aged 11, son of a stevedore, living at New-place, Drummond-road, Brixton-mound. The boy disappeared on Wednesday, the 1st inst., and on Sunday last his body was found in the canal at Camberwell. It is supposed that the lad went to play on the banks of the canal, and was drowned. A verdict of found drowned was returned.

A prolonged discussion, which occupied nearly the whole of the session, took place at the West-Leyden Conference on Tuesday, on foreign missions. Very elaborate statements were made by the general secretaries as to the policy of the society and the work in various parts of the world. Valuable suggestions were offered, with a view to awaken fresh interest on behalf of foreign missions.

With regard to the newly-discovered extract named "saccharin," said to be three hundred times sweeter than sugar, the British revenue authorities have interdicted its use in the brewing of beer at any stage, and the Somerton House analysts have succeeded in discovering reliable tests for its presence. French chemists have experimented, with the result that they have officially reported to the Government that

"saccharin" is indigestible and liable to accumulate in the system, to the injury of the health.

President Cleveland has a cousin in the grocery business at Lawrenceville, Pa.

The Florida orange crop this year is estimated at two to three million boxes—double the average.

The Parnell Commission will hold its sittings in one of the standing committee-rooms of the House of Commons.

Mrs. George Westinghouse, of New York, is credited with an income of \$7,000 a month from Natural Gas Stock alone.

The Mahomedans of Bombay have decided not to send delegates to the proposed Indian National Conference in Allahabad.

Advices from New Zealand concerning the wreck of the British ship Star of Greece, in Aldinga Bay, state that seventeen persons perished.

The Barnum of the West—Jack Robinson—is dead. His demise occurred at Cincinnati. He leaves an estate valued at \$3,000,000.

Filioux, a blind man, has been acquitted, after having been tried at Aix, in Provence, for cutting his wife's throat. He was jealous.

The Royal Yacht Squadron race for her Majesty's Cup took place on Tuesday of Cowes, when Moira, Captain Aldridge's cutter, won.

The average expenditure in drink in New South Wales is £4 1s. 6d. per head of the population.

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VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

(Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.)

No better proof could be given of the spirit which animates the Volunteer force of this country than the fact that upwards of 30,000 devoted hours of well-earned repose for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the art of war. In the south and east of England, several regiments were under canvas, and in the north Lancashire and other counties sent battalions for the purpose of joining hands with the Regulars encamped at Strensham. The cyclists, also, were on the war-path, and if one may judge from the observations made by Lieutenant-colonel Savile of their manoeuvring in the Drews district, they have at least shown that, under certain conditions, they might be made useful in the field. They will, however, require a great deal more training and practice in this branch of the profession before it is likely the Government will recognise or consent to a corps of this description forming part of the military establishment of this country.

One of the pleasantest and most instructive outings of Volunteers in the neighbourhood of London was that of the Woolwich division of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, which body, under the command of Dr. Stephenson, was, with the Tower Hamlets Engineers, encamped in Avery Hill Park, the residence of Colonel North. It numbered about fifty strong, and accompanying the column was an ambulance wagon and two two-coaled mules. During their brief stay the men were kept constantly at work, and many medical officers of the regular Army who were present expressed surprise that Dr. Stephenson had brought the detachment up to the very high standard of efficiency it has attained. The Army Medical Staff Corps is extremely weak, and I venture to think that, whenever war breaks out, the services of the Volunteer branch of this special service will be largely requisitioned as an adjunct to those of the staff corps.

Although the weather was not on the whole so favourable as might have been desired and the men had many unforeseen difficulties to contend against, they appear, with one exception, to have done their work with hearty good will. If the reports which reach me from Dartmouth, however, are true, it will be necessary to hold a thorough investigation into all the circumstances connected with alleged acts of insubordination. It is asserted that for two hours the men were kept manoeuvring in a drenching rain, and that some of the men audibly swore at the colonel, and told him to take off his overcoat. It is further asserted that it was only by the intervention of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe that the drill was dismissed, and that then the men rushed in a disorderly manner to their tents, and on retiring to rest were served out a ration of spirits.

Now, assuming this statement to be correct, however indiscreet Colonel Fremantle may have been in exposing Volunteers to weather which Regulars would not have been allowed to face, for drill purposes only, it affords no justification for the openly-expressed mutinous spirit which appears to have prevailed among the men. Colonel Fremantle cannot, like a Volunteer officer, be excused on the ground of excessive zeal, for he has rendered long and valuable service to his country, and is well acquainted with all the customs and usages of her Majesty's service. If he is to blame, he will doubtless be called to book for his mistake. But at the same time it may be well to point out that under no circumstances whatever can the Volunteers be justified in showing signs of insubordination, or with openly insulting or refusing to obey the orders of a superior officer. For the honour of the forces the matter must not be allowed to drop. But, perhaps, after all, we should have heard nothing about it, if the Government had only gone to the modest expense of providing overcoats for the Volunteers.

By the way the N.A.A. appear to have suddenly resolved to be extremely economical, but I am afraid they have commenced their cutting down process in a wrong direction. In the year 1878 ten cups used to be given to the winners of the Queen's. Shortly afterwards the drill was altered, and the detachment was reduced to nine men, and consequently only nine cups were given, the saving on the extra cup probably tending to swell the already bloated funds of the association. Now, however, the council insist on entrance fees being paid for ten men, but decline to give the tenth cup. As there has been a considerable reduction in the price of silver since 1878, and ten cups can be bought now at a much less cost than they could be ten years ago, surely the council would do well to think whether it would not be rather unseemly for the ninth and tenth man to have to take up which shall possess the prize.

Some of the Northern Volunteer battalions appear to be commanded by officers who think their men should spend their Sundays in church. It is stated that Strensham one Volunteer colonel was not content with the short service which was held in camp, so he chartered a train and took his battalion to York Minster by rail. A contemporary remarks: "On hearing the fourth commandment read this commanding officer may have been conscience-stricken that he had caused the railway men extra labour on Sunday in order that he might bear the fourth commandment read in York." That is all very well, but how about the unfortunate Volunteers and their wives and sweethearts, many of whom had travelled miles to spend the day in camp with the "boys"?

Ireland is to be congratulated on once again winning the Echo Shield, and the London Irish for being able to provide such a splendid escort as they did. I have seldom seen such a well "set-up" body of Volunteers as those of which Major Lloyd had the command. They may, for all I know, have been picked men, but even if such were the case I only wish that all our Metropolitan battalions could furnish such another two hundred.

The current number of Coburn goes far to show the wisdom of the proprietors in amalgamating that ancient periodical with the Army and Navy Gazette. Its articles, though written with a light hand, are sparkling and full of information. There is one on short service that is well worthy of perusal, and the student of military history will find abundant food for thought in the story of Washington's campaigning.

Oh, that reminds me; the gallant "Phil" Sheridan has gone over to the majority. It was wonderful how from the day he rode at the head of the 2nd Michigan, at Farmington, he won the esteem and love of the hardy Volunteers of the north. It has been my good fortune to see him on many a battle-field, and to know that wherever he went he inspired that confidence which is the certain precursor of success. Young, light-hearted, never so happy as when facing danger; kindly-hearted and generous to a fault, he will ever be held in the affectionate remembrance of all who followed his leadership and who felt inspired by his daring.

It is satisfactory to know that Mr. Walter Griffith Lloyd, sixth agent of Manchester, has failed in his action against Colonel Bradford. It would be quite impossible for any commanding officer to remain in the service, if actions for life were to be brought against them, because, in the performance of their duty, they thought proper to request an officer to resign. It is true, Mr. Justice Grantham said he sympathised with all Volunteers, and especially with the plaintiff, for it was very hard for a man to be turned out after so many years of service; but, shrewdly added his lordship, there is such a thing as discipline, and there could be no appeal where the position and powers of the colonel were so clearly defined by Act of Parliament." These were wise words, my lord!

In the Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine for

the present month, the articles on "Rapid Field Sketching and Reconnaissance" are continued, and Irving Montague continues his interesting papers on "The Wandering of a War Artist." Colonel Spalding's "Life of Sir Croft" grows in interest. The remaining articles will be found well worthy of perusal. The illustrations are exceedingly well executed.

One word concerning the magazine rifle, of which so much has been written of late. The number manufactured is considerably less than 350, and only few of them have been approved by the authorities at Enfield. There is a prejudice against this weapon on the ground that the breech-loading apparatus is altogether too complicated to stand the rough strain which would be placed upon it in the hands of British soldiers employed on active service.

The Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers are evidently increasing in favour with the Government, for I find the Admiralty are about to send a ship up to the northern contingent for their sole use, and that the London Brigade are open to accept the services of several recruits. Young gentlemen who have plenty of spare time on their hands cannot possibly do better than apply to the commander of H.M.S. Frolic, of Somerset House, as to the conditions of service.

ELMAZ.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

SATURDAY.—Drills. All drills are suspended to the first Monday in August. Practice suspended till the 21st. Recruit drill and review meeting will be held on Saturday, 23rd inst., facing to commence on arrival of the 9.45 a.m. train from Fenchurch-street. The cups, &c., to be shot on Monday, the 25th inst., programme of meeting can be obtained from Captain Spottiswoode, 10th Hussars. Leave of absence from July 1st to December 31st inclusive. Captain Marshall, F. Company, is removed corporal from this date.

SATURDAY.—Company and recruit drill on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Special drill of L. Company on Tuesday and of C Company on Wednesday. Classroom drill on Thursday, and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SATURDAY.—The haversack will in future be worn over the left, instead of over the right shoulder, front and hind portion will be under the waist belt. Recruit's arrangements—Classroom drill on Saturday, every Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SATURDAY.—Sunday (this day), officers of A Company come on duty. Monday, class-drill, 8.30 a.m. if haymaking is in progress; 1st and final class. Tuesday, drill at Headquarters, 8.30 p.m. Thursday, classroom drill, 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House met at a quarter-past three, when the Royal assent was given by Commission to 11 public and private Acts, including the Recorders, Magistrates, and Clerks of the Peace, Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances), Railway and Canal Traffic, Consolidated Fund (No. 3), and Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland) 1877 Amendment Act. The Royal Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Kintore, and Lord Herschell.

Lord Salisbury and the Parnell Commission Bill.

Lord SALISBURY, in moving the second reading of the Members of Parliament (Chargers and Allegations) Bill, said the matters in controversy were familiar to their lordships. There was a party professing to act, and to some extent did act, by constitutional means, having for their main object the alteration of the constitutional relations between this country and Ireland. In the main the action of this party had been by means of Parliamentary movement, electoral organisation, and public addresses to the constituencies. But parallel with that movement there had been another of a very different kind. This other organisation had acted by means of crime—violence, intimidation, mutilation, and murder. These means had been resorted to for the purpose of intimidating their constitutional opponents, and forcing from this country a concession which they did not think it fair to adopt. These two organisations were professedly apart, and the violent measures resorted to by the more violent party had been loudly repudiated by the other party. But the two organisations worked together; they had the same friends and the same enemies; they injured the same persons; and the natural result was that an impression grew up that there was communication and complicity between them. The impression was one which he was not prepared to examine or to express an opinion upon its probability and truth. But it was an impression to which body had been given by a series of elaborate, carefully-prepared, and powerful statements in the Times, distinctly accusing the more constitutional organisation (the Nationalists) with being practically in harmony and complicit in conspiracy with the other and more violent organisation, to which the name of "Invincibles" had been given. These statements were made last year so conspicuously, so emphatically, and were supported with such an elaborate array of apparent justification, that they excited a great deal of attention and created a great deal of scandal. The statements amounted to this—that members of Parliament and others who were professedly maintaining a constitutional agitation were in reality guilty of full knowledge and complicity, were practically accessory in a system of outrages which often culminated in murders. A member of Parliament (Sir Charles Lewis), entirely unconnected with the Government, brought the question before the House of Commons as a breach of privilege, but the House refused to consider his motion. It was, however, felt that the scandal was so great that some means of dissipating it were largely desirable. Ordinarily when a man was accused of something so dreadful as of complicity to murder for which there was no justification an appeal was made to a court of justice; but the hon. gentlemen attacked declined to take that course. The Government made the unusual offer to enable the hon. members to clear their reputations so gravely assailed. They proposed that by order of the House of Commons a suit of libel or criminal information should be instituted against the Times newspaper, to be conducted by the Attorney-general, with whom a Queen's counsel appointed by the hon. members attacked should act. That offer was declined, and, therefore, there was no means by which these grave scandals could be submitted to the arbitrament of the tribunals of the country. It was proposed on behalf of the hon. members that an inquiry should be referred to a select committee, but the Government felt, and the House itself was of the opinion, that a select committee would not be an impartial tribunal. The noble marquis then referred to the proceedings in the action of O'Donnell against the Times, and said that the Government then thought it desirable to avail themselves of the precedent of a judicial commission appointed in 1863 and 1867 to inquire into outrages at Sheffield, and appointed this year to investigate the Metropolitan Board of Works scandal. These commissions were remarkably successful, and no one had even ever suggested that the most distasteful, honest, and absolute justice had not been done. (Cheers.) The principle of this commission was unanimously accepted by the House of Commons on the second reading of the bill.—Lord HERSCHELL defended the action of the leaders of the Opposition in the House of Commons. He acquitted the Government of unfairness, and believed that they were honestly trying to deal with this question; but he regretted that a committee of the House had not been granted to inquire into the charges. The commission, he declared, would involve an inquiry into the character of every human being connected with the National League and the Land League during the last nine years. He contended that definite charges ought to have been laid against the Irish members before they were required to answer them.—Lord CARNARVON said he could not imagine any tribunal that the first was, that the Government had an interest in the proof of the guilt of those who were accused of the various crimes. The Government had no such interest (hear, hear)—but, on the contrary, it would be a far more useful factor in the present phase of Irish politics if it were established that there was no connection between the Irish Parliamentary party and those who had committed the outrages. In the second place, he maintained that it was a mistake to suppose that the Government had put forward the present bill. The Government had never proposed the bill as an independent measure of their own. The Irish party had asked for it; and it would have been idle to have attempted to try the issues by a committee of the House of Commons when the members of that House nightly were angrily engaged in discussing the questions. (Hear, hear.) He commended the Government in their selection of judges.—After some remarks from Lord KIMBERLEY, Lord ASHBOURNE said that every objection which had been urged against the commission could have been enforced with tenfold power against an inquiry by a committee of the House of Commons. He thought that the Opposition were utterly inconsistent, and maintained that no conceivable tribunal would have satisfied them. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.)—Lord GRANVILLE followed.—Lord DURBY said that the party to which he belonged accepted the bill as being, under the circumstances, necessary and wise. The bill was then read a second time.—Their lordships adjourned at 8.5.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Fire Escapes.

Mr. MATTHEWS, replying to Mr. W. Isaacson, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. R. Cooke, said the chief of the fire brigade had informed him that with the present number of firemen in the brigade it would not be possible to provide continuous attendance of men at fire escapes. The question of the organisation of the fire brigade could hardly be dealt with at the present time, when the charge of it would soon be relegated to the county council.

Mail Contracts.

Mr. RAJES, answering Mr. Henniker Heaton,

said the reduction of the charge on letters to India and the East from £1 per letter to 2d. was not contemplated by the Government. The £100,000 referred to as a saving in the Indian mail contract this year was not a profit, but simply a deduction. The contracts for the carriage of the Australian mails had been signed with the P. & O. and the Oriental Steam Navigation Companies, the instructions for the same being separate and distinct from those which regulated the Indian and China mail service. It was true that Australia was not satisfied with the present arrangements, but there were the widest reasons at present against making any alterations.

Execution of Criminals by Electricity.

Mr. MATTHEWS, replying to Sir T. Robertson, said his attention had not been called to a recent report addressed to the Governor of the United States as to the best mode of conducting the execution of criminals in the States. He, however, had seen a copy of an Act recently passed by the Senate ordering the execution of criminals by the application of electricity. Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to introduce any legislation with that object, but intended to carefully consider the question.

Police Franchise.

Mr. RITCHIE, in answer to Mr. Bigwood, said it was not altogether free from doubt whether members of the police force (other than lodger voters), while enjoying the Parliamentary franchise would nevertheless be debarred from voting for the election of county councillors, but the conclusion he had come to was that members of the police force would not be altogether debarred from voting at an election for county councils.

The Floods in St. Pancras.

Mr. LAWSON asked whether the Metropolitan Board of Works had caused inquiries to be made as to the flooding of houses in the Chalk Farm district of St. Pancras.—Colonel HUGHES replied that a representation had been made to the Metropolitan Board of Works by the St. Pancras Vestry as to the flooding of houses in the Chalk Farm district. No doubt these floods were a great nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. It was certain, however, that it was not due to the insufficiency of the main sewers under the control of the board. The board's main sewers were lowered some years since to make the drainage more effective, and observations that had been made by officers after storms showed that the board's new main sewer in the Kentish Town-road had never been filled since its construction. The local sewers ought to have been lowered, but that had not been done, though it would probably have prevented the flooding complained of.

Local Government Bill.

The House then proceeded to consider the Lords' amendments to this bill, and a number of amendments were agreed to without discussion.—Mr. PICKERSGILL moved to disagree with the Lords in an amendment the effect of which was to exempt the recordership of the City of London from the provision in the bill which took away from the corporation the right of appointment to judicial offices. That was a reversal of the decision at which the House of Commons almost unanimously arrived.—Mr. RITCHIE said it was impossible for the Government to defend the election of judicial officers by any elected body whatever. The Government proposed to leave to the corporation their right to appoint for the purpose of municipal duties, and he therefore asked the House to adhere to the Lords' amendment.—Sir HENRY JAMES and Mr. FIRTH supported Mr. Pickersgill's motion.—Sir R. FOWLER supported the decision of the House of Lords.—After some remarks from Mr. H. Fowler, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL contended that the clause as it now stood was workable as appeared from the experience of the past.—After some discussion the House divided, and the Lords' amendment was carried by 113 against 86.—Several verbal amendments having been agreed to, Mr. H. FOWLER, on the last of the Lords' amendments, expressed his high appreciation of the way Mr. Ritchie had engineered the bill. No Minister in recent times had conducted a similar bill with greater courtesy, more fairness, and better temper. The bill was not complete, but it was the beginning of a great work.—Mr. RITCHIE having briefly thanked Mr. Fowler and Mr. W. Long for their able services in connection with the bill, the Lords' amendments were all agreed to with the exception of some verbal alterations that were made.—Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

ACTION AGAINST A PRINCESS.

In the Westminster County Court on Wednesday afternoon the case of Taylor v. the Princess Murat came on for hearing before Judge Bayley.—The plaintiff, a West-end provision merchant, claimed of the defendant, who was described as the Princess Murat of St. George's-square, and late of Eaton-square, the sum of £17 odd, balance of account for provisions supplied, and the defendant pleaded overture.—Evidence was called by the plaintiff to prove that the goods were all ordered in the name of the Princess Murat, and that she had paid £20 on account. She had been subpoenaed to attend and give evidence, but she was not present.—On behalf of the defendant, it was stated that she had no recollection of having ordered the goods, but that in any case she was not liable, as she was a married woman. The vestry clerk of St. Peter's Church was called, and produced a copy of the marriage certificate of the Princess Murat. This witness swore that the marriage took place in his presence in 1877.—Plaintiff's solicitor contended that the certificate was not evidence of identity, and, even if it was, there was no evidence that her husband was alive at the time the debt was contracted.—His honour concurred, but granted an adjournment for the defendant to call evidence proving that she was the person named in the marriage certificate, and that her husband was alive at the time the debt was contracted.

A STATIONMASTER'S BREACH OF PROMISE.

At the Swansea Assizes on Wednesday Mr. Justice Mathew heard a breach of promise case, in which the plaintiff was Miss Kate Smith, a comely-looking young person of 21, at one time waitress at the Welcome Coffee Tavern, Swansea, and afterwards barmaid at several establishments in the town. The defendant was Mr. Thomas Adams, an employee of the London and North-Western Railway Company, and for some months acting stationmaster at several stations along the line in South Wales. The parties became acquainted in the early part of last year, and several letters passed. The plaintiff alleged that the defendant seduced her. In one letter the defendant spoke of the plaintiff as "My dear little wife Kit," and in another of "building his nest," and referred to the plaintiff as "his own dearest little wife." In April last the defendant was married to Miss Alice Jones, to whom, in a letter to the plaintiff, dated March 5th last, he said he gave his love to a boy, and he begged forgiveness of "his dear Kit" for the wrong he had done her, and for which he was then very sorry and ashamed.—His lordship said the letters clearly proved that the defendant had promised to marry the plaintiff; his excuse was that the other girl, Alice Jones, had put in an appearance, and that was no excuse at all. The jury had to consider the question of damages and the man's conduct, which was very bad.—The plaintiff was awarded £500 and costs.—The defendant was not present in court, and wrote stating that he should not

The annual distribution of prizes at the Royal Naval School, New Cross, was presided over by Admiral the Earl of Clanwilliam. The head master, the Rev. James White, said the reports of the examiners showed that the school was in a very satisfactory state.

THE MAGISTRATE AND THE NURSE GIRL.

A Shocking Story.

At Westminster Police Court on Friday, Mr. Martin Harcourt Grislin, J.P. of Salop and Stafford, described as of Brand Hall, near Shrewsbury, Pall Mall House, Market Drayton, Salop; and the Junior Carlton Club, appeared to a summons, before Mr. D'Eyncourt, to show cause why an affiliation order should not be made against him at the instance of Mary Morgan, now residing in Sidney-street, Chelsea. Mr. Bury Hutchinson appeared for the complainant and Mr. St. John Wontner for the defendant, who was subpoenaed to attend as a witness.—On the case being called on, Mr. Wontner said that before the case was opened he would observe that he had made a certain suggestion that his friend had not acquiesced in.—Mr. Hutchinson: You have offered me nothing—nothing which we could accept.—Mr. Wontner: I have offered you all this court can give you.—Mr. Hutchinson: Yes, after your client had kept away at his establishment in France (Dinan) for over two years to avoid these proceedings, and put the complainant to a lot of expense.—Mr. Wontner: Since the summons was taken out the complainant has married. It is true that the summons issued before she married, but she did not proceed with it. And now, after the lapse of nearly two years she comes here and gets a fresh summons on the original application. I object to the hearing.—Mr. Hutchinson said every effort might be made to "burke" the case and stop the facts coming out, but it was his intention to state them.

A Terrible Case.

This was a grave scandal, and he was not at all surprised at his friend trying to cut it short. The complainant, a very young girl, left her home in Cornwall to enter into the household of the defendant in France as a nursemaid, and he seduced her at the age of fourteen, and afterwards kept her in great state for four years. He was a magistrate and a man of great wealth, and when he found that she was anxious to get married or, the child of which he was the father, although he had frequently professed his intention of having the boy educated as a gentleman at Eton, and making a suitable provision for him in after life. Probably this agreement was a matter that would form the subject of inquiry in another court.—Mr. D'Eyncourt: An affiliation order can only be made according to an Act of Parliament, and not according to a defendant's means.—Mr. Hutchinson said he knew that. He had a pile of letters from the defendant, a married man with a grown up family, to the complainant, and the first in order was one sent from Dinan in December, 1885, and dated Tuesday, as follows:—"My Darling,—Your letter of the 26th causes me the greatest agony. Listen to me, dearest, once more, whilst there is yet time." . . . Mr. Wontner: Why should these letters be read? —Mr. Hutchinson: Certainly they should. This is to prevent the girl getting married. (Continuing the reading): "I entreat you not to do it by the infinite love I have for you, by the memory of the past, and for the sake of our dear boy, do not do it. You do not love this man. You will get tired of one another, and he will say and do cruel and vindictive things. He will neglect you and Harold, and leave you for some new fancy. Have I changed in anything? My love for you is so deep—so unbounded, so utterly true and strong, that it remains even now unshaken, and if you love me still all things are still possible. Don't desert me for a shadow, have a little patience. Call my boy to your knee, look into his eyes, look at his little mouth, which you say curls like mine—(laughter)—and can you tell me you will abandon his father? . . . I have always provided for you. Do not leave me at a time when there is every expectation of my being able to be much more with you, and doing much more for you. I am yours, from the hair of my head to the sole of my boot." . . . (Laughter.) Tell me, dearest, shall I come to you and fetch you away, or will you join me in London or anywhere? Telegraph when you get this letter the one word "come," and I will come at once, or do go, as you said, to Tezby, and I will soon be in England. . . . Return to me, Poll, my love, my heart, my very life, for my sake and our boy's.—Ever and for ever thine only."

Alleged Blackmail.

Mr. D'Eyncourt: What is the date of that letter?—Mr. Hutchinson: I understand that lover never put dates. (Laughter.) It is simply "Thursday." Here is another letter dated Christmas Eve, in which he speaks of "agonising suspense," because he had not heard of his darling, and one written Christmas Day, 1885, in which he addresses her as "Sweetheart," and commences: "What a deep meaning there is sometimes in one little word, Joy beyond measure, or sorrow beyond expression. Do you remember how one night you started up and clung to me, saying, 'Call me your sweetheart?' (Laughter.) Am I not your sweetheart?" With what rapture I folded my arms round you.

Mr. D'Eyncourt said it was unnecessary to read any more of the correspondence.—Mr. Hutchinson said he liked to read it aloud. (Laughter.) It was so interesting, because since the girl got married the love had turned to hate.—Mr. Wontner: We are not going to submit to blackmail. That has been tried before.—Mr. Hutchinson: I never attempted to levy blackmail, and I do not understand such an observation. It is only fair to the girl that all these letters should be read. I have a lot more. We swear an information against your client for threatening to shoot the girl's husband, and then Mr. Griffin ran away.—Mr. Wontner: You did, and your client only demanded £500 to settle it.—Mr. Hutchinson then briefly examined the complainant, a stylishly dressed young woman, who stated that she laid her information for her summons against the defendant in January 1886, when she was a single woman. She had since married a Frenchman and been to America.

A Technical Difficulty.

Mr. Wontner said the case was exactly on all fours with a decided one in which it was held that a single woman who took out a summons against the putative father of her child and did not proceed with it, but afterwards married and then took out a fresh summons on the original application, could not obtain a magisterial order. The superior court had held that the magistrate had no jurisdiction.—Mr. Hutchinson said the summons was not proceeded with in 1886 because the defendant ran away to France, and the summons was only left at an hotel. Communications had been sent to the Junior Carlton Club and elsewhere without avail, and the fact was the defendant only "snaked" into England to put in an appearance. He was served with the present summons in his solicitor's office.—After considerable discussion on the legal point, Mr. D'Eyncourt said he was against Mr. Hutchinson, and if it was still open he recommended him to accept the offer Mr. Wontner made to him before the case was opened.—Mr. Wontner said that offer was no longer open. His friend had said that he only wanted the order so that he could bring an action for £1,000.—Mr. D'Eyncourt decided that he could not hear the summons, and offered to dismiss it or let Mr. Hutchinson withdraw it, as he thought best.—Mr. Hutchinson elected to withdraw it, and afterwards (Mr. Wontner having then left the court) applied to the magistrate to fix a day for the further hearing of the original summons, which was taken out in 1886, and which he contended was simply adjourned sine die by his worship's colleague, Mr. Partidge, who was not satisfied with the service.—Mr. D'Eyncourt declined to re-open the case, but told Mr. Hutchinson that if, as he said, there had been no adjudication on the original summons, he could apply to Mr. Partidge, before whom it came, to restore it to the list on his return from vacation.

Samuel Crowther, of Dodderhill, near Droitwich, is said to have murdered his neighbour, John Miller. The coroner's jury have returned a verdict of wilful murder against him.

SEQUEL TO THE LEWISHAM POISONING CASE.

At the Middlesex Sheriff's Court on Thursday, before Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell and a jury, an action was heard in which Mrs. Catherine Ann Brewster sought to recover damages for the loss of her husband. Mr. Vennell represented the plaintiff. No counsel was in attendance for the defendant.—The plaintiff, according to the opening statement of counsel, is a widow, residing at No. 57, Court Hill-road, Lewisham, the defendant being a chemist, carrying on business at Loampit Vale, Hither Green, also in Lewisham. The plaintiff is the widow of a publican, who was the proprietor of the Sir Daniel Brewster beer-house at Lewisham, and also carried on business as a builder. On the 17th of June, 1888, a medical student, named Malcolm Cowan, and a friend of Mr. Brewster's called at his house. Mr. Brewster complained of headache, and Cowan suggested that he should take five drops of strichnine in a salidite powder, remarking that he often took it himself. The deceased asked, as he could not get the strichnine himself whether the medical student would get it for him. To this Cowan consented, and went to Henry's shop, where he asked for the five drops of strichnine to be mixed with half a salidite powder. He was served by a young man named Eugene Henry, age 22, the son of the defendant; but, instead of supplying five drops of the strichnine, the assistant put in eight grains, about sixty or seventy drops, which, counsel said, was sufficient to kill twenty persons. The bottle into which the strichnine was put was not labelled "Poison," but simply "the draught" nor was there any statutory entry in the chemist's book of the sale of the poison. It was further alleged that the assistant made no inquiries as to what the poison was for. Mr. Brewster, who was a strong, hairy man, took the draught next morning, and in six minutes he was dead. At an inquest subsequently held, the medical student and the chemist were severely censured, as was also the son. The widow now brought an action, under Lord Campbell's Act, to recover damages. The counsel said the act was one of very gross negligence, and complained strongly that the defendant had put in no appearance, which was really treating the case with utter contempt.—Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, sister of the plaintiff, said she knew the late Mr. Brewster well. He was a strong, vigorous man, and she never knew him to have a doctor. Mr. Brewster, besides being in business as a publican, followed the occupation of a builder and also collected rents.—The widow was then called, and bore out the facts as stated by the counsel. She stated that her late husband was the freeholder of the Sir Daniel Brewster beer-house, Lewisham, which he built himself, and had occupied for twenty years. She thought her husband earned between £4 and £5 week independent of the beerhouse. The witness said the beerhouse was mortgaged; and since her husband's death a man had been in possession, as she was unable to pay the interest on the mortgage, while, in addition, she had now to pay ready money for the beer she sold.—The Under-sheriff, in summing up, said it would have been more satisfactory had the defendant come before them, but he thought, perhaps, if the jury gave a verdict for a moderate amount, and it would be more advantageous for the plaintiff, as she would, perhaps, be more likely to get the money. The jury awarded her £200.

THE RIDLEY INQUEST.

Dr. Barr Speaks Out.

At the inquest on the late Dr. Ridley on Friday, Dr. Barr deposed that he visited Tullamore Prison on November 29th, in pursuance of the interview with Sir West Ridgeway, and the Hon. Charles Bourke. He examined the prisoners confined under the Crimes Act. He found Mr. Mandeville in good health. Dr. Ridley complained that he was being persecuted by Dr. Moorhead, and that all his Roman Catholic patients had left him. In further examination, Dr. Barr deposed that he visited Tullamore on December 3rd and 4th. After the last visit Dr. Ridley and he made a joint report to the Prisons Board. In reply to a statement of Mr. Mandeville that the prison doctor allowed him to be punished as long as he continued to disobey the prison rules. The witness, continuing, stated that he received a letter from Dr. Ridley on July 13th, asking him to attend the Mandeville inquest, and stating that Messrs. O'Brien and Co. would use every means to blacken and damage those opposed to them. When he saw Dr. Ridley at Fermanoy he was very excited. The evidence of Drs. McCraith, Moorhead, and Ronayne at the Mandeville inquest excited him very much—in cross-examination, Dr. Barr stated that he was born in Cork, Londonderry, and was president of the Conservative district in the Everton Division, Liverpool. He did not overrule Dr. Ridley's discretion in his treatment of the Tullamore prisoners. He was to guide his discretion and give the benefit of his own opinion; he considered that imprisonment prolonged the lives of some men.—In further examination, Dr. Barr stated that he accused Drs. Moorhead and Ronayne of wilful perjury, and Drs. McCraith, O'Neill, and Cremin, who attended Mr. Mandeville in his last illness, of incapacity and falsehood.—In course of cross-examination, Dr. Barr said counsel's sneering would not affect him.—Counsel said in his experience he never found an untruthful witness who was not impudent to counsel cross-examining him.—The inquiry was again adjourned.

COLLISION AT SEA.

LOSS of Twenty-four Lives.

Respecting the great storm at Valparaiso on Monday week, during which the barque, Cambrian, of Liverpool, and the French barque, Etoile du Sud, were sunk, after violent collision, information received at Shields states that the whole of the crew of the Cambrian, seventeen in number, and seven of the crew of the French vessel were drowned. The Cambrian left the Tyne, commanded by Captain Armstrong, of Naylor, the chief officer being J. Bryan, of Brighton, and the second officer, J. Richmond Frew, of Liverpool. The